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Major: You're a liar, Mr Adams



Sinn Fein leader responds by regretting 'personal abuse'

Anthony Bevins and David McKittrick

The Prime Minister yesterday directly linked Gerry Adams with the murder of Warrant Officer James Bradwell - the closest he or any other minister has ever come to accusing the Sinn Fein leader of complicity in murder.

WO Bradwell died yesterday from injuries suffered in the IRA bombing of Lisburn bar-racks earlier this week. In a passage added to the text of his Bournemouth conference speech, John Major paid special tribute to the first soldier to die since the IRA ceasefire was announced in August 1994.

He then proceeded to attack Mr Adams in the most scathing terms. "For many months, Simi Fein leaders have mouthed the word peace. Warrant Officer James Bradwell was 43, with a wife and with children, Mr

"He joined the army, pre-pared to lose his life defending the British nation. Soldiers do. But he was murdered in cold blood in the United Kingdom, I sent him there, Mr Adams, so save me any crocodile tears. Don't tell me this has nothing to do with you. I don't believ Mr Adams, I don't believe you."

The Prime Minister's carefully-targeted attack prompted some of the strongest applause of the speech. Mr Adams, in a swift response in Belfast, declared: "Personalised attacks are no substitute for real politics. It was the absence of real politics and a good-faith engagement by the British government in the peace process which led to its collapse.

"Mr Major cannot evade his responsibility and he must bear the lion's share of blame for the current difficulties. His insistence on decommissioning is in-

accommodation." The Prime Minister also used his speech to announce an expansion of power for the Commons cross-party Northern Ireland Committee, setting up ministerial question times and allowing it to take evidence on proposed legislation.

The measure was clearly designed to please Unionists, who ve been pressing for such measures for some years. As such many observers saw it as intended to help keep the Ulster Unionist Party - and its much-



WO James Bradwell; Bomb victim who died yesterday

with the Major government. The UUP leader, David Trimble, has recently generated some Govenument concern by making conciliatory moves towards Labour and its leader Tony Blair.

In Belfast the confrontational rhetoric from both the Prime Minister and the republicans is seen as confirmation that the two sides have written off the idea of doing any serious business together in advance of the general election. Both seem more concerned with recrimination and apportioning blame rather than working out a deal to make another IRA ceasefire more likely. One source who has

had contact with republicans privately this week advanced the opinion that the Lisbura bombings "were probably aimed more at Tony Blair than at John Major". He meant that the IRA may have been more concerned with placing Northern Ireland on the political agenda of the next government rather of altering

the course of this one. The political talks at Stormont, while continuing at a snail's pace, are at least still in session and it is clear that their continuation would be jeopardised by any question of a government concession to the IRA.

Any appearance of concession on arms decommissioning would create a protest against what would be seen as transparent appeasement of terrorism. Such a move would probably lead to a general Unionist walkout from the talks. None the less, it was noted that in spite of his attack the Prime Minister did not close his mind to an IRA ceasefire and its eventual inclusion in talks.

The IRA has always believed that Britain can be deflected by terrorism," he said. "They have always been wrong. And they are wrong now." Mr Major added: "No one will take Sinn Fein seshow a serious commitment to end violence for good."

When Ulster ministers were later pressed to explain whether Mr Major was accusing the Sinn Fein leader of complicity in the bombing, they were care-ful to direct The Independent to Mr Major's words.

Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, told The Independent: "It reflected exactly what all decent people teel; revulsion at the contrast between those who speak of peace and at the same time are associated with acts of murder."

Peace vigil, page 2 Leading article, page 17

Face to face: John Major tells Gerry Adams he does not believe him when he says the attack was nothing to with him Photographs: Reuten/Minor Syncication 2 I'm going to fight them in the streets

Throughout the last 17 years we have changed Britain. But not enough. There's still more to do spreading choice, extending opportunity, these are ceaseless

The show goes on. The road goes on. It stretches far ahead a good education, rewarding obs, security. That's what matters to millions of quiet, decent, home loving families up and down the country, the people who care for their children work hard, save for old age, and are proud of this country. Alone, you cannot hear their soft voice. But collectively they speak for Britain. Our message

I didn't come from two rooms in Brixton to 10 Downing Street not to go out and fight with every fibre of my being for the things I believe in and the country I love. So come the elec-tion, where will I be? I'll be out in the towns and streets ... in narket squares and city centres

QUICKLY

Nobel prize for bishop

Malan cleared

he former South

Edited extracts from John Major's Bournemouth speech

... I'll go round the country and marks the great divide in British core of what I believe in I start speak face to face to as many politics. In its heart, Old with education ... If parents people as I possibly can.

Labour, New Labour, any old want more grant-maintained choose they shall have them:

I'll talk about opportunity, opportunity for all. I'll tell them straight and I'll tell them true ... I will be the one talking to the people in the middle of the crowd. So come and join me and I promise you, we'll win.

I came into politics to open doors, not shut them. They were opened for me. I was born in the war. My father was 66. My mother was surprised. We were like millions of others. Not well off, but comfortable, until financially the roof fell in It changed our life, My mother coped - as women do. I left school at 16, because an extra £5 a week mattered. I learnt from that experience. In the game of life, we Tories should even up the rules.

ment knows best I don't. Opportunity for all. It's in the bloodstream of our party. It was Shaftesbury who gave an education to thousands of children from poor homes. It was Disraeli who gave many working men the freedom to vote. It was Salisbury who brought free education within the reach of almost every family in England. And it was Margaret Thatcher who sold council houses and public industries, giving people a real stake in this

I believe we should give families opportunity and choice and a wider, warmer view of life. Our belief in choice is the driould even up the rules. ving force of our policy—it's not Giving people opportunity a political ploy; for me it is the

More specialist schools - we'll who builds on that success afprovide them. More selection -they'll have it ... And if parents

want grammar schools in every town, well then so do I, and they shall have them. We're aiming for the least possible tax to give the greatest possible choice. As we can afford it, we'll move to a 20p basic rate for all. That is our priority. Dependency must be about needs, not a culture. I can't

stand welfare cheats. They deprive those in real need. Our NHS is unique. In this country, when you're ill, we take your temperature. In other countries, they take your credit card. While I'm in Downing

Street that will never happen.
I'm the first Prime Minister

for generations who can say "We are the most competitive economy in Europe". And I intend to be the Prime Minister

ter we've won the next election. The sharpest element of the European debate is the possibility of a single European currency. We Conservatives are in grown-up politics. We know that where Britain's national interest is at stake Britain's national voice must be heard ... We must play a full part in that

We believe Europe must be-come more flexible and responsive; that the only realistic future is as a partnership of nations, not a United States of Europe. But some of our partners do see the future of Europe as ever closer political as well as economic integration. We don't believe this is practical. Nor, to be frank, desirable. It is not the Europe we joined and it's not a Europe we can accept.

The Union Parliament Our voting system. It is naive to think that radical change would be easy or risk-free. And it's revealing to look at Labour's plans. Their priority in the first ear ... would be to gerrymander the British constitution.

They're avid for more parliaments, more assemblies, more regional assemblies. Their policy is in chaos. What a message. "Vote Labour - for more politicians, more bureaucrats, more taxes, more regulations, more tampering, more meddling, more authoritarianism." If that is the New Gospel, then give me the old religion.

It's been the week the Tory family came together - to renew the family contract with the British nation ... The wellbeing of the Conservative Party is more important than any individual

The Broadsheet

Business & City ... 20-23

Comment 17-19

Foreign News 12-15

Which is more important? Your car or your life?

What do you pay

for your car insurance each month?

Okay, divide by two.

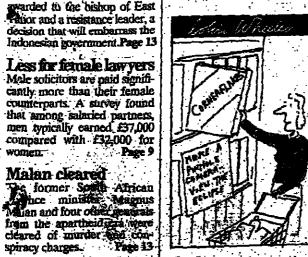
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Today, the sun will blaze darkly



Science Editor -

Today, the words "weather permitting" will matter a great deal. At 3,15pm, the best solar eclipse since 1961 should be visible across much of England and Wales . During today's partial eclipse, starting at about 1.50pm and ending at about 4.25pm, up to 60 per cent of the sun will be

covered by the Moon's shadow assing over the Earth. The worry is that cloudy weather could spoil the event -or, conversely, that clear skies might tempt people to look directly at the sun. It's the sun's over the Internet, at the Sociinfra-red rays which do the ety for Popular Astronomy's

don, "Nobody should look at the sun through any sort of optical instrument such as a tele-

scope or pair of binoculars."
Even looking directly at the sun through improvised filters -like fogged photographic film, smoked-glass or a bin liner - is dangerous, as the heat will quickly burn your retina and damage will be permanent. The only sure way is to view the sun indirectly, through a pinhole

camera, or else in a reflection such as a windscreen or puddle. The most indirect view will be

damage," said Duncan Copp of World Wide Web page, at Mill Hill Observatory in Lon-http://www.u-net.com/ph/spa/ http://www.u-net.com/ph/spa/ eclipse/partial.htm. But the Society also suggests this alternative pinhole projector.

1) Take an empty cereal packet. 2) Make a small pinhole in one of the shorter sides, a couple of inches from the open top. 3) Point the pinhole towards the sun and look inside the box. A small image of the sun will be cast on to the opposite inside wall.

🔄 On 11 August 1999, people in Devon and Cornwall will see a total eclipse of the sun - the last occurring until 2081.

The Long Weekend Arts & Books 4-7 Crossword29 Travel

"The Sky at Night", the Long Weekend, page 2

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stole £237,000

from Church

An accountant who funded a



significant shorts

Grammar school plans dropped

FRAN ABRAMS **Education Correspondent**

Ministers have backed away from plans to push through the introduction of new grammar schools, government offi-cials admitted last night.

A leaked draft of the contents of a Bill to be published later this month shows that proposals to force discussions about full-scale selection wherever a new school is built have been

Gillian Shephard, the Secretary of State for Education, will

also have the right to step in and prevent schools from selecting a proportion of their pupils if it would leave some children without places.

Last night Labour accused Mrs Shephard of taking a "two-faced" approach, telling her party's conference that she was pressing on with plans for more grammar schools while quietly allowing her officials to water

A spokesman for the Department for Education and Employment said officials would consult local communi-

ties on what kinds of schools

they wanted.
"They will have to consider what's best in their view for the area ... Where the supply of school places is tight, selection could mean there would be some pupils who couldn't find a school place," he said.

A White Paper published in June said the agency which funds opted-out schools would be required to consider building grant-maintained grammar schools wherever extra places were needed. However, the

new Bill, which have been passed to The Independent.

The provisional proposals do say, however, that all schools must consider the case for introducing selection every year, and that would-be grammar schools will have the "right of appeal" if their local authorities try to block them.

Mrs Shephard told delegates at her party's Bournemouth conference on Thursday that the government wanted to encourage more grammar schools "in response to parental demand".

union leader said surveys showed that most parents did not want more grammar

Peter Smith, general secretary of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers, said ministers had clearly realised that plans for a grammar school in every town would not be popular. "Parents won't be keen on it." he said. "It is a very low

David Blunkett, Labour's education spokesman, said: "Gillian Shephard would appear

faced approach. While assuring the Prime Minister that his plans for a grammar school in every town will be delivered, she has quietly got her officials to drop one of the key ways in which the Tories imagined that this might by delivered." he said.

A spokesman for the Fund-ing Agency for Schools said it had asked parents for their views on selection when consulting on a new school in Epsom and Ewell, Surrey. It had been told emphatically that they were not interested.

was yesterday jailed for three years. Dean Bailey, 34, bought £100 opera tickets, a box at Lord's cricket ground and took a Caribbean holiday with the money he embezzled while working for the Diocese of London. Southwark Crown Court was told that Bailey, of Bethnal Green, east London, cooked the books and forged signatures on cheques to cover his crimes.

> Anger at Dunblane gun homework

> Parents reacted furiously last night after a little girl who was shot and wounded during Thomas Hamilton's rampage at Dunblane came home with a colouring-in sheet depicting a gun.

Five-year-old Amy Hutopison, who was hit in the knee when Hamilton shot dead 16 of her Primary One dialisation and their teacher, told her mother she did not want to touch the worksheet.It included a picture of a pistol and the letters G and N, with the

Amy's mother Veronica, 32, said: "I found it very distressing, and I didn't want anyone else upset. They're all shocked. "I dread to think how the families who lost a child would feel if a brother or a sister brought this home." she said.

Strike threat over violent

pupil secondary school are threatening strike action after a boy who assaulted a member of staff was returned to lessons. The boy, in his second year at the school, was expelled after attacking a teacher who stepped in to break up a fight between him and another

Rabies killed teenager

The teenager who contracted rabies while in Nigeria died of the disease, a coroner said esterday. The 19-year-old Vigetian, who has not been named, died at Coppetts Wood Hospital in north London, An inquest will open next Friday.

Labour MP dies of cancer

Terry Patchett, Labour MP for Barnsley East, died yesterday after a long fight against cancer. Mr Patchett, 56, had a majority of almost 25,000. The Lahour leader, Tony Blair, said: "Terry life of lumry by stealing phindering more than £237,000 from the Church of England was the sort of MP on whom the Labour party has always depended. Obituary, page 16

> Post workers vote on strikes

Postal workers will start voting today on whether to continue with the campaign of industrial action which led to mail deliveries being crippled in the summer.

Tired

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The Communication Workers Union expects the 130,000 staff to vote in favour of continuing the strikes to strengthen its opposition to a proposed pay and working practices package. The result is due at the end of the moreth.

Asians bank on secrecy

A secret banking system used among Britain's Asian and Chinese communities is being used to launder "dirty" money from drugs and crime, a conference on financial fraud in Wakefield, West Yorkshire, was told yesterday. Police have uncovered a number of known as "Hawallah" to the Asians and "Chip-Chop" to the Chinese – to "clean" illegally obtained money. Jason Ber

Boycott to edit **Independent** on Sunday'



Rosie Boycott, (above) the former editor of the British edition of Esquire magazine, has been named editor of the Independent on Sunday, becoming the first woman to edit a quality broadsheet. She replaces Peter Wilby. Ms Boycott, who founded Spare Rib, said: "I have always admired the Independent on Sunday. It is a newspaper which values quality writing, the truth and integrity and has never sacrificed those principles."

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Joseph's poem takes the title **DAVID LISTER**

Jenny Joseph's poem 'Warning' has been chosen as the nation's favourite post-war poem in a BBC poll. It is the second time the

poem, which describes the delights of a reckless and irre-sponsible old age, has proved popular with BBC voters. In a poll last year to find the, favourite poem of all time (wost by Rudyard Kipling's "If") "Warning" was the only poem in the top 20 to have been written by a living poet.

Favourite Poems, Daisy Goodwin, said: "It is a delightful, engaging poem which speaks to everyone who is facing the prospect of growing older with a sinking heart."

The top 10 poems were: "Warning": "Not waving but drowning by Stevie Smith; "Do not go gentle into that good night" by Dylan Thomas: "This be the verse by Philip Larkin; "The Whitsun Weddings" by Philip Larkin; "Stop all the clocks" by W H Auden; "Christmas" by John Betjeman; "Fern Hill" by Dylan Thomas, "Let me die a young man's death" by Roger McGough; "A subaltern's love song" by John Betjeman.



'The Eye'

The Independent's new guide to the arts. entertainment and television is launched today. If for any reason you do not have a copy of The Eye in your four section newspaper, contact the number below and we will ensure that you receive a free copy as soon as Phone 0171 293 2220

The Offer

Take a copy of today's Eagle Eye to the Lumiere Cinema. St Martin's Lane, London, tomorrow and win two free seats for the new Cedric Klapisch film When The Cat's Away. For details see page 67 of The Eye.

Silent crowds gather by jaded symbol of peace

The wooden dove, held aloft on a stick above the word "Peace", had clearly seen better days. Its faded white feathers had been touched-up in places and the stick was bound round with old insulation tape. But was impossible to ignore.
It seemed tired, a little jad-

ed as if, like the 2,000 strong crowd outside Belfast's City Hall vesterday, it had seen one peace rally too many.

Despite the high turn-out, and the uplifting singing of local children, yesterday's "Count The Cost" peace vigil, held under heavy grey skies, had a subdued air as news filtered through of the deaths of Darren Murray, 11, hit by a van during sectarian exchanges in Portadown, and Warrant Officer James Bradwell, a victim of the Lisburn bombings.

Nuala Noblett, chairwoman of Women Together, which had

organised the rally, said that the attack had been a "cruel, calculating act aimed at pushing us to the brink of civil unrest. We cannot lose hope although we

have been truly tested." During the half-hour vigil, the mixed crowd, which had congregated slowly from the city centre's shops and businesses, stood silently in the temporarily closed roads around the square while they heard the testimonies of three victims of

sectarian violence. Mark Kelly had lost both his legs at the age of 18, after a "nowarning" bomb was placed under his chair in a pub. Yvonne Cromie's son was 17 when he was shot dead in a sectarian "titfor-tat' murder.

But it was a tearful Maria McShane who left the most lasting impression. Eighteen years ago, pregnant, she lost an eye after a car bomb. Her son survived only to die 18 months ago, aged 17, shot dead by the UVF.

Sympathy over soldier's death

DAVID MCKITTRICK

The death of Warrant Officer James Bradwell, the soldier who was grievously injured in Monday's double IRA bomb attack on the Army's Lisburn headquarters, yesterday produced many expressions of personal sympathy and political condemnation.

The soldier died just before 7am yesterday in a Belfast hospital. His wife was at his bed-WO Bradwell was injured by

both of Monday's explosions. He was apparently very close to the first car bomb, in a car park, and then a short time later was further injured by the second bomb. This went off near the medical centre where he was being treated.

He suffered serious burns to up to 60 per cent of his body and other injuries.

together with a skull fracture

Aged 43 and from Gateshead, he was married

with three children and had two a few years and starting a new grandchildren. He was on his first tour of duty in Northern Ireland with the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. He had served in the Army for 19 years, winning the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal for Exemplary

His stepmother, Jean, said yesterday: "It is just two months since he was posted to Northern Ireland from Germany. We were worried about him but he reassured us when he phoned at the weekend."

WO Bradwell's father Walter, 66, who lives near Sunderland, said: "It has come as horrible news and I feel bitter that this should have happened when everyone had been hoping that peace had come to Northern

"I was very proud of Jim and his work as a soldier. He really loved the army - it was something he lived and breathed. But he had been looking forward to finishing in

Extending sympathy to his family, the Taoiseach, John Bruton, demanded of the IRA: "If there is a new ceasefire will it be just a conditional ceasefire like the last one or will it hold in all circumstances? That is the question that the republican

movement must now answer." David Trimble's Ulster Unionist Party said the soldier's death underlined the fact that Sinn Fem and the IRA had excluded themselves from political talks.

life back in his home area, and

it is tragic that he should have been prevented from doing so in this way."

that some surveillance equip-

ment at army headquarters was

not working properly at the time

of the bomb attacks. One of the

closed-circuit cameras had ei-

ther stopped running or had no

brought a fresh wave of

condemnation of the bombings.

WO Bradwell's death

It was confirmed yesterday

GRRR AHA MMM'S PORT

Just roll it round your tongue GRAHAM'S THE PORT OF AUTHORITY

المكذا من المذهب

Major guns for the self-helpers

A concerted election campaign effort to undermine public trust h Tony Blair was opened up by John Major yesterday. In repeated attacks on the Labour leader, Mr Major patronised his opponent as "young Mr Blair", a man who had never done a "real job" of work in his life, and accused him of using the language of crusade, dream and passion as a cover for lackof

"At the election," Mr Major told a jam-packed conference at Bournemouth, "there's a central question. It's this: who can best be trusted with the future?" Labour had tried to per-

suade people that they were the ones to be trusted because they had changed. But Mr Major said: "It simply won't do for Mr Blair to say, 'Look, I'm not a socialist any more. Now can I be Prime Minister, please?' Sorry, Tony. The job's taken."
But Mr Major's ebullient

self-confidence - lapped up by the conference with the traditional ovation and repeated choruses of Land of Hope and Glory – was backed up by a package of well-trailed policy measures designed to trump Mr Blair's five core policy pledges. John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader, said last night:

"Just like every other speech in Bournemouth, John Major has nothing new to say. It was just the same old story, fake unity and crude attacks on Tony Blair. No one will be impressed."

Nevertheless, Mr Major and the Tory media machine were keen to promote a continuing commitment to an annual, realterms increase in spending on hospitals, and a reaffirmation of there, night after night, dis-old plans to recreate cottage turbing the peace and commit-



Know your demon: a participant at the Conservative's conference shows where danger lies with a Tony Blair mask

offered an attack on truancy, and announced experimental young tearaways", imposing curiews on offenders aged from 10 to 15 years. "If we know a young trouble-maker is out

hospitals through an expansion of local doctors' surgeries.
On law and order, Mr Major him to stay put. At home, and cricketer" Sir Colin Cowdrey off the streets," he said.

As for education, Mr Major plans to put electronic tags on repeated that the Tories would offer more choice, with more grant-maintained schools, specialist schools and selection. If parents wanted them, grammar schools in every town, too.

had agreed to help set up a team of sporting ambassadors --"widely drawn from the best role models in sports, our leading athletes, past and present" who would visit schools, in-

spiring a love of sport. Turning to work and welfare,

accept responsibility for them-selves. "Dependency must be about needs, not a culture." he told the conference. "I can't stand the welfare cheats. I'll tell you why. They deprive those in

"We're determined that taxpayers' money goes where it's needed. Our task is to build a welfare system for the 21st century. A system for a self-help body here knows it."

Photograph: David Rose

yourself society." Last night, as he left the Bournemouth conference to the applause of lingering representatives, Mr Major said that the week's successful conference had confounded the doom-mongers. "This is a conference of a party that's going

SWEEK AT THE CONFERENCE

A France Bill enabling cross-checking of tex materias, VAT returns, and benefit claims: conic tagging for young offenders; Power for judges to shame young of-

icaused by strikes;

the backlog:

Later backlog: QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"Stoff the talking - let's get cracking" Lady Thatcher.
"If we throw away the next election, we won't just
throw away the tast five years. We will throw away
the inst 17." John Major.
"I tell this conference - in order to win we need
three picture policies: unity, unity and unity." Michael



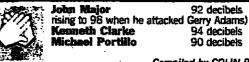
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"sleaze row" libe! to Sir Jimmy Gold-action on the first day of the conference. Party

FASHION STATEMENT John Major's decision to taking his jacket off during a question and answer session, prompting Labour to claim Tony Blair did it

Gordon Brown bases his policies on the Dolly Parton school of

economies - an unbelievable figure blown out of all proportion (Ken Clarke). Author: Angela Knight, junior Treasury minister RAPTUREMETER READINGS OF THE WEEK



Compiled by COLIN BROWN

Tired party does its best to varnish over the cracks

Chief Political Correspondent

Tory grass-roots supporters left Bournemouth yesterday deunited and that John Major had renewed their will to win the general election.

to the Liberal Democrats in a by-election after the death of the Tory MP Stephen Milligan in a bizarre sex act.

Dame Margaret Fry – Emma Nicholson's Tory president be-fore the MP defected to the Liberal Democrats in Devon West and Torridge - was also emphatic about the success of the Tories' conference week in

"I have been working for

grand loc

ink and

e vinti

even greater enthusiasm."

But do annual party conferences make any difference in

conference. They left fizzing with ideas, and went on to win Thatcher.

The turn-around was achieved by a barrage of poli-cy announcements. Ten years later, the Government looks tired - the announcements of Speech of the Parliament.

will go down as one of our greating the Conservator on Europe, and damping down back to our constituencies with continuous revolution. The to hear - continuing the policy on Europe, and damping down expectations on tax cuts." main item on the agenda this week was unity.

Baroness Thatcher set the

tone by giving her successor her It is in seats like theirs that unequivocal backing with the orthe 1997 general election will be der to their supporters: "Stop "I am motivated. I will be out won or lost. In 1986 – in the the talking – let's get cracking." cerity oozed out of his speech."

The Major speech writers Bobbie Jones, chairwoman of launched-the Tories arrived in Lady Thatcher became the leit- have no need for the playthe Eastleigh Tories, who is Bournemouth looking demor-fighting to regain the seat lost alised after a successful Labour Minister's gesture of support for supplied the best lines for Marhis Chancellor - holding hands - was another. The message to a third term under Margaret the Euro-sceptics was clear: I am backing Clarke and there will be no change of policy on

> Former minister Robert Hughes, one of Mr Major's the past week were stocktaking campaign allies, said yester-measures for the last Queen's day: "The turning-point was the Chancellor's speech, be-After 17 years in office, parcause he put to the conference

Europe this side of a general

Mr Major sought to contrast his own dogged style with Tony Blair's slickness. Michael Portillo - one of the Cabinet Euro-

garet Thatcher. A Miller thriller, called The Coat of Varof the pier in Bournemouth next

nish will be playing at the end

Bournemouth and Mr Major's speech have given the Tories a fighting chance. But if Mr Clarke fails to deliver some cuts in taxes in his Budget in a few weeks' time, the gloss over the new show of unity in the Tory Party will peel before

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Surviving on the poverty line. Page 8

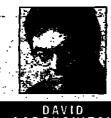
do when it does?

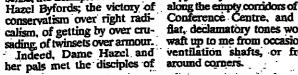
Tinker? No thanks, we'd rather settle down and light the Aga or less. "Once we were radicals.

It had said the party official to the masses, been a very suc-cessful conference. "And why", he asked, "has it been so suc-cessful?" Unity? John Major? A Labour-smashing performance? No. Because it has been chaired by Dame Hazel And he was absolutely right.

I do not really know who Dame Hazel is, but I have a mental image of her, and if it's accurate then this week was, in a very real sense, the triumph of the Dame Hazel Byfords; the victory of conservatism over right radicalism, of getting by over crusading of twinsets over armour.

Indeed, Dame Hazel and





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Newt Gingrich and overcame. During the Prime Minister's Hazelly speech - holding a copy in my hand - I walked along the empty corridors of the Conference Centre, and his flat, declamatory tones would waft up to me from occasional ventilation shafts, or from

DAVID AARONOVITCH

things, time to settle down, to

play golf, set up a sports acad-emy and carry on carrying on. Not for us passion, not for us destiny, not for us dangerous dreams of altered states. Welcome in the age of Joanna Trollope and Colin Cowdrey, Agas and untampered balls."
"Now we will conserve. Con-

serve the union, conserve our institutions (we've destroyed the ones we didn't like), conserve the health service, but more than anything else - in order to conserve everything else - we must conserve us."

Is this realistic? It does seem

to entail spending a lot more public money, while cutting taxes at the same time - a return to the good old Byfordian days of stop-go. But then things are often contradictory.

This was the PM on parental choice on education: "More selection? They'll have it. Why should governments say no, if parents think it's right for their children?" But selection is not about parental choice. All parents would choose to be selected, but only a few can be. You see, John and Hazel, the two principles are fundamentally antagonistic. And sooner rather than later people are going to find this out.

You can always pretend, of there was a badly attended

drugs. Towards the end a tight-curied, thick-spectacled dowdy But those times have gone. It is time to stop tinkering with young woman, who had been speaking animatedly about the "wetchedness of dwngs", came up with her one solution to the epidemic. "If they want to do something exciting and a little bit different," she trilled, "they can join the Young Conserva-tives!" And afterwards they can join Nicholas Scott at the bar, It all conjured up an image

of young partygoers, dressed in shirtsleeves exchanging copies of John Major In The Round videos, and snogging to the sound of Dame Hazel's "Greatest Hits". By and large the con-ference utterly failed to grasp in any way what was going onout there in this chronically insecure Britain of ours.

And here's another image. On Wednesday I found Tony Marlow, Euro-phobe MP (one of the whipless wonders), sitting on a sunlit bench outside the Highcliff Hotel, overlooking the blue sea. To you and me it would sim-

ply be a lovely day by the sea-side. To Tony it was a perfect vantage point to watch for the sails of the marauding Spaniard, or to listen out for the drone of the Heinkel, or the wind-carried sounds of "Vive l'empereur". His eyes narrowed as he waited for the European ship to

come in. And what, Dame

·Hazel Byford, are you going to

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Election according to Mondeo man

Redditch may not seem a fash-ionable town, but for the election strategists it is a critical battleground.

This new constituency, carved out of mid-Worcestershire, has a notional Conservative majority of 3,000 and Labour needs a swing of just over 3 per cent to take a seat they must win if they are to have a realistic chance of forming the

next government. In the 1992 local elections, Conservatives polled 48.07 per cent of the vote in local elections; Labour 41.95 per cent and the Liberal Democrats just under 10 per cent. This May, Labour gained 55 per cent against only 26 per cent for the

Conservatives.
The tree-lined wards of Matchborough and Winyates are crucial areas filled with many of the skilled workers the

parties are fighting over.

This is where The Independent panel live in their own houses, owning decent cars and holding down good jobs.

Some are already lost to the Tories, it seems. The memory of unemployment, perceived health cuts and once-high interest rates are still too strong. Education, too, is seen as a key factor, but Europe was hardly mentioned as an issue.

Mark Redfern, 29, is an engineer, married with his own semi-detached house. Unlike Tony Blair's Midlands voter of 1992 - whose decision to vote Tory convinced the current leader that that poll was lost he drives a Ford Granada. He has always voted Tory and describes himself as "one of Thatcher's children", but will not vote Conservative next time. "I cannot afford to be a Tory

any more, they are taxing me to the hilt. "My wife, Jane, is expecting again and is having to give up her job because we can't afford

the child care." Mr Redfern says he is impressed by Mr Blair and is pre-

pared to give him his vote. Indeed, none of the 12, all Conservative sympathisers in the past, say they are sure they will vote for John Major next time.

Sierra owner, Adrian Blick, a 30-year-old self-employed builder, will also switch his vote to Labour.

During the recession, he almost lost his home and the pres- country needs a change. "I sure caused him and his then

middle-England voters whom thev believe will decide who wins the next

This conference season, the political

parties have been concentrating on a

relatively small number of middle-class,

election. Tony Blair told the story of how in 1992 he met a Midlands man washing his Sierra who convinced him that Labour was no longer the party of the aspirational classes. These days,

they are as likely to be Mondeo man,. or Granada woman, but are they convinced by Blair's New Labour party? Michael Streeter went to Redditch to meet the Mondeo people who will form

The Independent's election panel. We shall return to them again as the General Election approaches

to see how they respond to each of the politicians.



cannot afford to be a Tory. they are taxing me to the hilt **Mark Redfern**

Tories," he says. Although not personally keen on New

Labour, Mr Blick thinks the

would rather pay slightly high-

"I feel let down by the a bed for me in the hospital. Mr Blair.



I feel let down by the Tories the country needs a change **Adrian Blick**

Denise Sparkes, a dress-

maker who has two young chil-

dren and owns a Nissan Micra,

is angry with the Tories, for

whom she voted in 1992, but



I will vote Tory unless Mr Blair can produce concrete policies **Susan Lovett**

Ms Sparkes wants to hear

more definite policies, first on

the areas she feels most strong-

ly about - health and education.

recurring themes among The In-



been positive enough to make honest on tax me vote Labour Andrew Osciak



Mr Blair has not I'd prefer Labour to be more and economy



I will vote for whoever will secure growth in the economy Steven Marriott Lionel Baird

ference speech but along with before. She adds: "What is hap-One definite defector to for the next millennium. most of the group, says she is not pening to the NHS is also ter-Labour is Linda Middleton, really influenced by party con-41, who works in a supermarferences and is more interest-She could not have voted for ket and owns her own Ford car. Neil Kinnock's Old Labour, ed in detailed policy. One of her sons has just gone to university and she feels liked John Smith's the best, but eith She liked Mr Major's con- rades, just for show," she says. students get less now than ever will still vote for Mr Blair. The battle has begun.

tancing the party from the unions. Susan Lovett, 38, a former

sales consultant with two cardren, lives in a smart house and drives a Ford Granada. A Tory voter in 1992, now she is not so sure and regards Mr Major as

whom she applauds for dis-

"too weak". However, she's unpersuaded yet that Mr Blair can produce the concrete policies on edu-cation, the NHS, law and order and Europe that she wants. If he does not, she will "probably" vote Conservative again.

Toolmaker Andrew Osciak, 45, also sees crime as a big issue. After giving Mr Major his vote last time, he says he is now in two minds. But neither is he impressed by Mr Blair, whom he feels has not been positive enough to persuade him to vote Labour, as he once did in

the past.
Steven Marriott, 28, a radio frequency engineer, who drives a Montego, says he would have voted for Margaret Thatcher had he been old enough, but voted Liberal Democrat protest at the last election.

A period of unemployment and time spent on training schemes of "no benefit", turned him away from Mr Major, whom he regards as too weak. But he's also worried that Labour may have a hidden agenda and would prefer Mr Blair to be "more honest" about his intentions on taxation and

the economy.

Paramedic Lionel Baird, 52, drives a Renault 19, does not know if he will vote Tory again and is worried about the investments he's made to safeguard his future. Mr Baird is unhappy at the state of the NHS and believes that Mr Blair has modernised the Labour Party, but says in the end he will vote for whoever will best secure eco-

nomic growth and stability. The Liberal Democrats also won plaudits from our group, but many view them as too weak and unlikely to form the next government

As the views of those above and the rest of the penel change. The Independent bring them to you, in the run up to an election which will de-termine the British government

The message so far is clear: while many may not vote Tory again, Mr Blair's New Labour is not guaranteed their vote

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Orthodox Jews confront dilemma over egg donors

and LIZ HUNT

A fertility clinic in Nottingham is appealing for Jewish egg donors. The appeal, the first of its kind in Britain, raises difficult ethical questions for Orthodox Jews, who are likely to be worried about the origin of

the eggs they receive. The appeal has been prompted by the growing number of infertile Jewish women coming forward for treatment who refuse to accept non-Jewish eggs. Reform and Liberal Jews are less worried, since they take the view that a child raised in a Jewish womb will by definition become Jewish.

Dr Margaret Jacobi, a Liberal rabbi who is also a medical doctor, said yesterday: "As progressive Jews, we consider that babies adopted into Jewish families are Jewish, so egg do-

But for some Orthodox women the problem is acute. For the Orthodox, Jewishness is transmitted only through biological mothers. It is not clear from traditional Jewish teaching whether a mother is the woman whose egg grows into a baby or the woman whose womb nourishes it, if the two roles are sep-

arated as they are in IVF. Dr Simon Fishel, director of Nurture, the fertility unit at the Queen's Medical Centre in Nottingham, who is Jewish. said yesterday: "Women ask for Jewish sperm for insemination so why should they not want Jewish eggs? But it does raise some interesting issues. We are not talking about skin colour or racial features but about 'Jewishness' and what it is. Is it a

race, or a community, or a feeling. There isn't a Jewish

and I think it is something for the individual to decide. We are probably talking about dozens

of women nationally. There are patients who are really suffering infertility - they see in the Bible the great commandment to go forth and mul-tiply, and Rachel's cry to God, 'Give me a child else I die.'"

Some rabbis insist that the identity of the donor be known; and some also prohibit sisters giving eggs to each other, a pro-hibition which Dr Fishel finds

incomprehensible. But, he said, there was no general line, even among the Orthodox rabbinate. "Some rabbis will say that anonymous donation is frowned upon but not outlawed. Others will say it is both frowned upon and outlawed. But patients come from

nation would not be a problem gene that we know about so why with one rabbi, and it is that rabhould it matter? But it does bi's views which are decisive.' Eggs for women who cannot produce their own are scarce

generally, particularly among ethnic minorities, and several clinics regularly appeal for A day or Afro-Caribbean women. become donors. The women's cannot be paid for supplying egg: other than a small sum for ex-. penses - so doctors rely on the altruism of fertile women. The procedure is time-consuming, painful, and poses a small risk to

the health of the donor. The Nurture appeal will ini-tially focus on Jewish communities in Nottingham, Leicester and Sheffield and will be "proactive", Dr Fishel said. Posters and leaflets will be distributed throughout Jewish communities and staff from agogues, women's groups, uniparticular communities, each versity groups, and surgeries.

Briton dies in coach crash

A British woman was killed and 45 other British holidaymakers injured early yesterday when their coach was involved in a crash with a car in Majorca.

The accident occurred when a car skidded in front of their coach, causing it to swerve off the road and overturn. The dead woman and an 11-

year-old boy who suffered leg iniuries had to be cut from the wreckage by emergency services. Spanish police named the dead woman as Dawn Mary Parker, aged 30. The car driver, a 22-year-old Spanish man, also

Holiday company Surworld said 13 holidaymakers were a fairly horrific experience. still in four hospitals in the island's capital, Palma.

The accident happened just before lam local time, near Lluc Mayor, close to Campos, about 12 miles north of Palma. The tourists had been to an "extravaganza" at Son Amar. a club where they were treated to

dinner and a show.

hotels on the east coast of the island, in and around Calas de Mallorca when a Volkswagen Golf skidded into the path of the coach, hitting the front of the vehicle, Spanish police said. The coach was carrying 57

Britons, one of them a representative from Sunworld. A number of the holidaymakers, whose ages ranged from five to 93, suffered minor

injuries, while 11 passengers escaped unhurt. Director of operations for Sunworld, Manny Fontenia-Novoa, said: "The passengers are still pretty shaken up. Ob-

viously, they have gone through "We are trying our best to help them. Those that want to come home can. The first may be able to fly back today although obviously we don't want anyone travelling in shock and are seeking medical advice on

Friends and relatives were given an emergency number to They were returning to their ring - 0113 236 1777.

'Contact' mother must stay in jail

A mother jailed for repeatedly contact taking place. She s refusing to obey a court order spurned all those attempts. for contact between her four-Court of Appeal ruled yesterday. Judge William Poulton sent

the 30-year-old woman to Holloway prison for six weeks at a hearing at Canterbury Com-bined Court on Thursday. He enforced a suspended

sentence order after she failed to take her daughter to an arranged contact meeting with the father. It was the eighth time a contact order had been made and disobeyed.

Appeal judge Lord Justice Ward said yesterday the mother insisted her ex-partner was not the child's father, but DNA profiling had proved he was.

The stark reality is that this is a mother who has frequently set herself on a collision course with court orders," he said. "She has been given endless opportunities to comply, with sym-pathetic attempts by the judge to meet her flimsy objections to is in prison - of her loving care.

There had been "not a single year-old daughter and her ex- word of regret" from the moth partner must stay in prison, the Court of Appeal ruled yesterday. Poulton had bent over back-

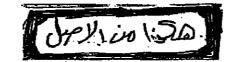
wards to see her point of view, but "eventually even his boundless patience was exhausted". The message had to go out that there was a limit to the court's tolerance when orders

Lord Justice Beldam said no court, except as a last resort and with the utmost reluctance, would make an order depriving a little girl of the care and emo-

were flouted.

tional support of her mother. "But in the end the court is faced with a situation in which it either has to yield to the obstinacy of the mother and back

down from its own order, or it has to enforce it," he said. The judge said it was up to mother whether she confirm to deprive her daughter and her child by another father - both now with foster parents while she



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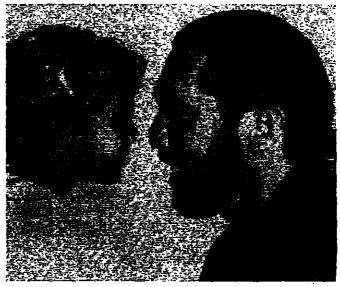
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John Paul and Eloise

Divided society: Commission finds 14 million Britons earn half the national average wage and calls for cap on highest salaries



'Maximum wage will end' poverty trap'

GLENDA COOPER

"There aren't such things as sac-rifices when you are a single parent. You have no choice," said Annie Oliver, who brings up her five-year-old son, Alex, by herself. "There are no conscious decisions 'I'll do that or I won't', will it be lean mince or fatty mince, M&S or Tesco's? You just have to survive."

Ms Oliver is one of 14 million people in Britain whom the Channel 4 Poverty Commission say are living in poverty. Until recently, she and Alex lived on benefits of £80.10 a week. In a good week, when there were no bills, she could afford to spend

up to £30 a week on food; in a the highest-paid was getting bad week it might be £8. the highest-paid was getting 150 times the lowest wage," said Ms Oliver looked for a job

and when unemployed did vol-untary work. The Channel 4 wage" was imposed to cap levels of high-earning employees.

While much has been made of the idea of a statutory minimum wage - currently sug-gested at £4.26 an hour - the group say that by also imposing a maximum wage, more people could be employed on better wages. Tackling poverty would also make the well-off up to £55 a week better off, it claimed. through reducing the benefits

bill and the costs of crime. The commission, which travelled around the country for four months interviewing more than 100 people, found that 14 million people in Britain now have incomes of less than half the national average and the number increased very rapidly

during the 1980s and 1990s. Low wages were said to be of poverty in the UK, with onethird of those suffering from poverty in households where

company to be paid no more than 10-25 times the wage of the lowest-paid. This has worked idmirably in companies such as

"We found companies where Channel 4 at 7.05pm.

the pattern [of wages] becomes paid to fund those at the high-

er levels." The group also commis-sioned research measuring the costs of poverty to the richest 75 per cent of the population tional average income. "This was not to show that the prograre a burden on society, but to highlight the financial self-ingleterest the well-off have in re-

ducing poverty," said the report. The research found that the cost of unemployment was as high as £19.45bn [benefit paid plus the amount the government loses in taxes because someone is not in work]; meanstested income support cost £13.02bn and crime, £15.06bn [studies show that between 40 and 70 per cent of reported crime is committed by young,

The commission suggested an increase in funding for schemes one person is working. More to help recently released pristhan 60 per cent of full-time oners back into work and hous-workers earn less than male aving to try to combat reoffenderage earnings of £375 a week. ing, more opportunites for fur-The commission called for ther education and more monthe highest-paid employee in a ey should be made available for good, affordable public housing. National Lottery money could be used for such projects. The Great, The Good and

US scientists link abortion to breast cancer

Health Editor

A single abortion can significantly increase the chances of a woman developing breast cancer, according to American the disease."
scientists, who claim that there Ann Fured has been a deliberate attempt to conceal the risk for more than

Professor Joel Brind, from the City University of New York, and his colleagues, say that although the increase in risk shows that the risk of breast canis low, it may account for thou- cer might be increased by about sands of cases of breast cancer almost 25,000 in the US. And they warn of a "poten-

of women exposed to legal induced abortion continues to age." The scientists, who analysed data from 28 published studies

cancer, say women who are having an abortion should be told of the breast-cancer link. They suggest that the surge in the levels of the hormone oestrogen in the first trimester of the past four decades produced pregnancy is the most likely neither a consensus of opinion

breast-cancer risk in a woman

who subsequently undergoes a However, British experts reacted swiftly yesterday to allay alarm and downpiay the findings of the study, published in the Journal of Epidemiology and eight, there are \$00,000 Community Health. Margaret time abortions a year. There are Gilchik, a consultant breast sur- around 170,000 abortions in

geon at St Mary's Hospital in the UK annually, and the

of any link, "I am surprised," she said, "because, statistically, the person who has had a termination is more likely to have had an early pregnancy, which is a known protective factor against

Ann Furedi, director of the Birth Control Trust, said the findings should be treated with caution, and denied that the risk had been ignored by doctors.

that has to be put in persitive. If you want until 35 for ?? tially much greater impact in the next century, as the first cohort risk of breast cancer, and if you bottle-feed instead of breast feed your baby the risk is in-

Professor Brind said that the to reach an overview of the link between breast cancer and between abortion and breast abortion is seen worldwide. abortion is seen worldwide. This, he said, ruled out the possibility of bias or variables af-

fecting the statistical evidence. The first published evidence of a link appeared in 1957, but mechanism for increasing on the issue nor "a sense of urgency to arrive at one," according to the American team. Instead there seemed to be a "deliberate attempt" to play

In the US, where the breastcancer risk is about one in eight, there are \$00,000 first-London, said she was unaware breast-cancer rate is one in 12.

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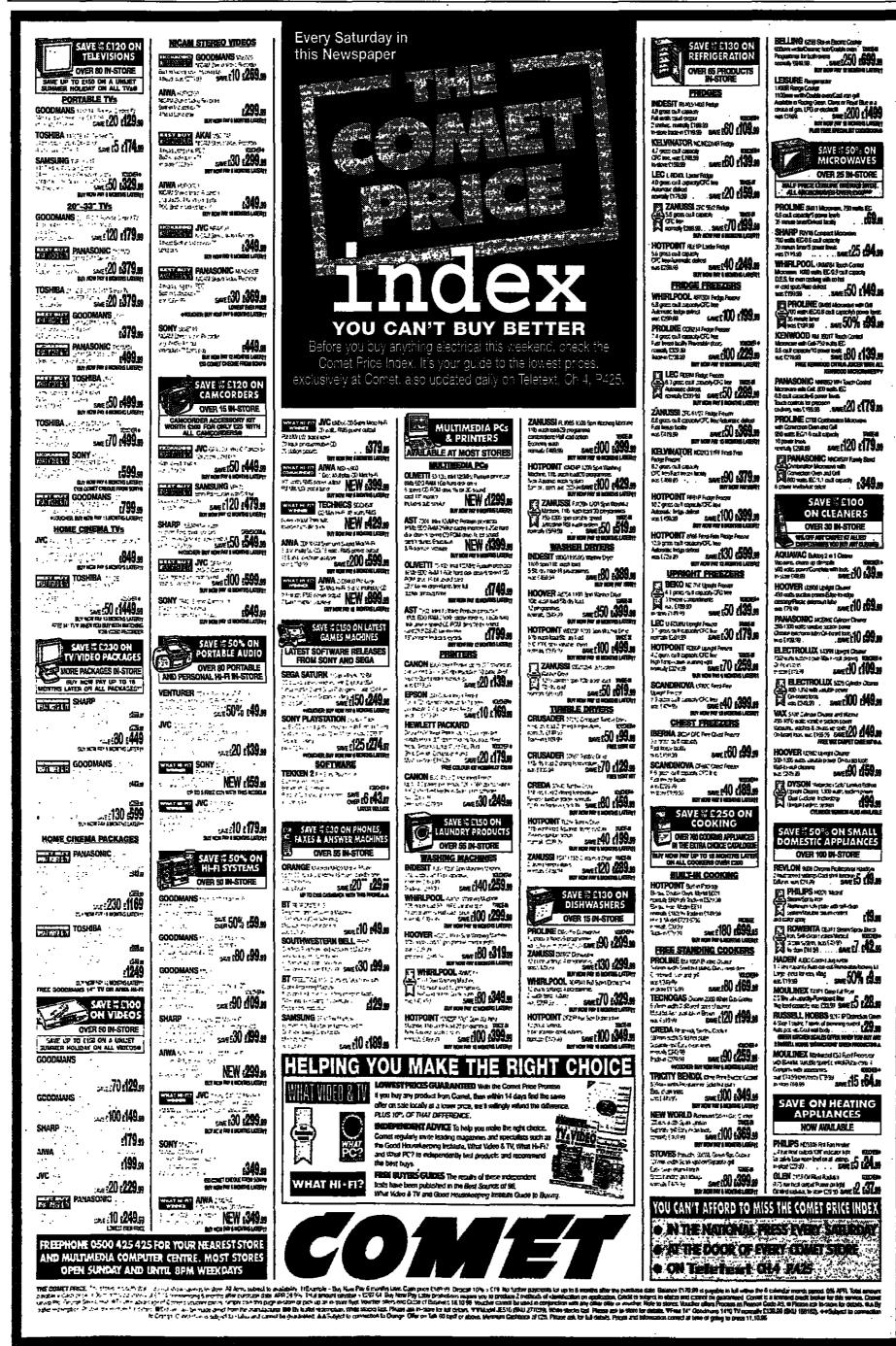
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Solicitors shamed by inequality of salaries

PATRICIA WYNN DAVIES Legal Affairs Editor

The first-ever Law Society survey of solicitors' salaries in England and Wales has found men being paid significantly more than women, even after allowing for differences in age, experience and type of firm.

The findings, described as "shameful" by the society's president, Tony Girling, will come as a serious embarrassnent to a profession that has preached a strong message of equality and into which women are now entering in greater numbers than men.

Speaking on the first day of the Law Society's annual con-ference in Manchester, Mr Girling, told delegates: "How can anyone conceivably stand up and argue in this day and age that equality of talent does not justify equality of treatment?
There are problems about

partnership - career breaks and all that - some may say. But surely those women who have made it to be partners or assistant solicitors are entitled to equal reward with their male colleagues. That isn't what is nappening.

Taking median earnings, the raw data from the survey shows male assistant solicitors earning £24,000 compared with £21,000 for women. At the level of salaried partners, men are earning £37,000 compared with £32,000 for women. Among equity partners, the guif widens \$51,000 for men and £36,000

Mr Girling said afterwards

adjusted for factors like size and location of firm, age and length of qualification, there was still an average difference of £1,700 between male and female associate or assistant solicitors.

That is a lot of money," he said. Mr Girling was giving advance warning of the findings which are part of a survey of so-licitors' incomes to be pub-lished next month. The ongoing study, by Coopers and Lybrand and Scantel, is examining 579 representative firms of up to 80 partners, thus excluding the

very top earners in City firms.
The exercise is the society's first-ever investigation into

opposed to profitability.

Mr Girling agreed that women solicitors appeared to be being exploited. "I feel ashamed," he said. "It continues to indicate that solicitors do feel that women are people they can get away with paying at lower levels.

A third of the 66,123 practising solicitors in England and Wales are women, and slightly wore than 50 per cent of each year's new intake are female. Solicitors found guilty of

breaching a professional practice rule against discrimina-tion, could be disciplined for misconduct. But Mr Girling said it was "very much a question of education, encouragement and exhortation". Studies carried out for the so-

ciety by the Policy Studies Institute also show that people from ethnic minorities face considerable difficulty in getting training contracts to complete that even when the figures were their qualification as solicitors.



تعكدًا من الأعل

solicitors' take-home pay as | Out of the shadows: Bacon's Seated Figure (Red Cardinal), unseen in public for 35 years, which is expected to fetch £1.5m Photograph: Nick Turpin

Bacon's cardinal steps into

MARIANNE MACDONALD

A major portrait from Francis Bacon's famous Papai series, in which he transmuted papal images into visions of insanity, has come on to the market for the first time in decades.

Seated Figure (Red Cardinal) has been known to experts only from a black and-white photograph and has not been seen by the public for 35 years. Its sale at Christie's on 4 December – for an estimated £1.5m – is hailed as a return to confidence in the art market.

Bacon painted Seated Figure in 1960. It resided in an American collection until the 1970s, and was then bought by a European collector Bacon died in April 1992; a new biography by Michael Peppiatt, Anatomy of an Enigma, details the artist's love affair with Peter Lacy. and tells how many of his

£25,000 pay deal for train drivers

CHRISTIAN WOLMAR

Drivers at South West Trains are set to accept a productivity deal which will guarantee them £25,000 a year, making them the highest paid drivers in the

The deal is part of a quiet revolution taking place on the railways, with drivers tearing up rule books and discarding 100year-old work practices to boost their salaries with the new rail nies, in return for greater

The SWT package, which more than doubles the previous guaranteed wage, involves a switch from traditional wages to salaries. The 800 drivers will also enjoy a two-hour reduction in their working week to 37 hours. The productivity deal would mean that average earnings could rise by more than 13 per cent, on top of a 2.9 per cent rise negotiated in April.

The previous rate was £11,950 per year, but additional allowances, such as payments for unsocial hours, mileage and overtime, will be consolidated into a salary of between £25,000 and £26,000 a year,

In return, the union will agree to more driver-only op-eration of trains, dispensing

portion of shift time being spent driving trains rather than sitting in depots. Duty times will now range from six to 11 hours,

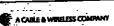
rather than seven to nine hours All but £7,000 of the new salary will be pensionable, ensuring much higher pensions for drivers. The company is assuring no compulsory redundancies, split shifts or part-time

lieves the SWT package is one of the best deals being thrashed ut with 30 train companies. The union has agreed productivity packages with four com-panies and three offers are out to ballot among drivers. Salaries range from £20,600 at Central Trains to £24,000 at

While there are job losses in all the deals - East Coast is losing 80 out of 350 drivers - Aslef these will be lost through nat-

Lew Adams, Aslef general secretary, said his executive had no hesitation in recom-"It is another ster towards improving the living standards of drivers and rewarding them for the exacting job they have to undertake."

A country in the gap of hysteria about sa



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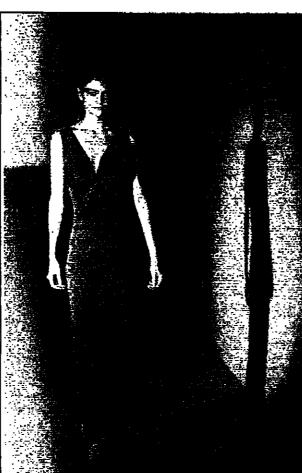
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Child sex tour agent jailed for 16 years

in the Philippines for 16 years yesterday for promoting sex tours with children as young as

Michael Clarke, 50, from Eastbourne, Sussex, became the first foreigner to be con-victed of inducing child prostitution since a campaign against the illegal trade was launched by President Fidel Ramos last year.

The successful prosecution, secured with the help of British campaigners, prompted calls for more police resources to investigate sex offences commit-ted by Britons against children

Danny Smith, director of the campaigning charity Jubilee, said: "Tough action by governimperative to bring to justice abusers and to save more chil-dren from sexploitation."

The court in Olongapo heard an adult tour package which in-cluded a drive to "Sin City" -Olongapo – and the "OK Corral" where "dozens of headstrong young fillies are tethered". Clients were told they could "choose (their)

He also published posters promoting his Paradise Express business showing boys and girls in sexually provocative poses and promising "outrageous and promising "outrageous". happenings". And he placed advertisements in Exchange and

He was caught when Martin Cottingham, of the charity

court that Clarke offered him sex with a child prostitute and advised him to take a camera, video recorder and "fetish gear" with him on his boliday. Another witness told how Clarke claimed sex with a 12-year-old girl cost only as much as a hamburger.

Sentencing him yesterday, Judge Fatima Asdala said: "This young ... in the guise of moting tourism is considered to this court to be debasing of Fire

ipino women and children." She ordered that after serv-ing his sentence, Clarke should be deported and banned from the Philippines for the rest of his life. The travel agent slumped to his seat as her ver-

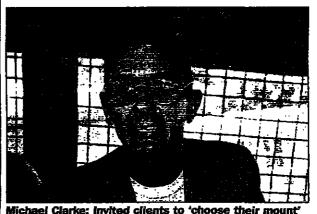
dict was read to the court.

He had vehemently denied any offence and claimed be had been set up. As prison guards led him away from the courthow Clarke distributed a room, he told reporters: "I am brochure in London promoting completely innocent of the charge - a fabrication. It's dia-bolical - I've suffered enough." Members of the Coalition on Child Prostitution and Tourism,

which includes the NSPCC and Anti-Slavery International charities, welcomed Clarke's jailing. Mr Cottingham said: "I hope this verdict makes more British men think twice about travelling

to poorer countries to exploit children sexually."

Tough new penalties, with a maximum sentence of life immonth aimed at punishing the organisers of child sex tours.



Stab-case youth accuses boy

The teenager alleged to have murdered headmaster Philip Lawrence accused another boy of the stabbing yesterday. He said the boy borrowed his

coat and cap to disguise himself during a confrontation outside St George's Roman Catholic Comprehensive School, north-west London. As people were running and screaming, the teenager said, he saw the other boy "punch Mr Lawrence sideways. He was still wearing my coat - the hood was up. He had a scarf across his face. He started walking towards me. I was waiting for him - he got pretty close to me. I saw a knife in his hand. He said he had stabbed a teacher in the heart. He did not seem at all panicked. I saw the blade - it did not ap-

pear to have blood on it." The teenager, who was not a St George's pupil, was testify-ing in his defence. He has denied murdering Lawrence last December.

and said he went to the school at the request of the other boy
- a Filipino - because "some black boys were picking on them. It had happened a few times. They were getting picked

on because they were Filipino". The other boy, who had a tattooed hand, asked for his clothing, saying there were teachers around and he needed a disguise. He saw the tattooed boy run off after the stabbing. "I saw him throw the knife in the mid-dle of the road. He still had my coat on." He said that when he caught up with others in his group, he told them a teacher had been stabbed "because of what the other boy told me".

Asked by his counsel, David Spens, QC, why he later told an acquaintance he had done the stabbing, the teenager said: "I was boasting." He told him he saw blood "to make it sound more exciting". It had not been true, he told the court.

WOOLWORTHS

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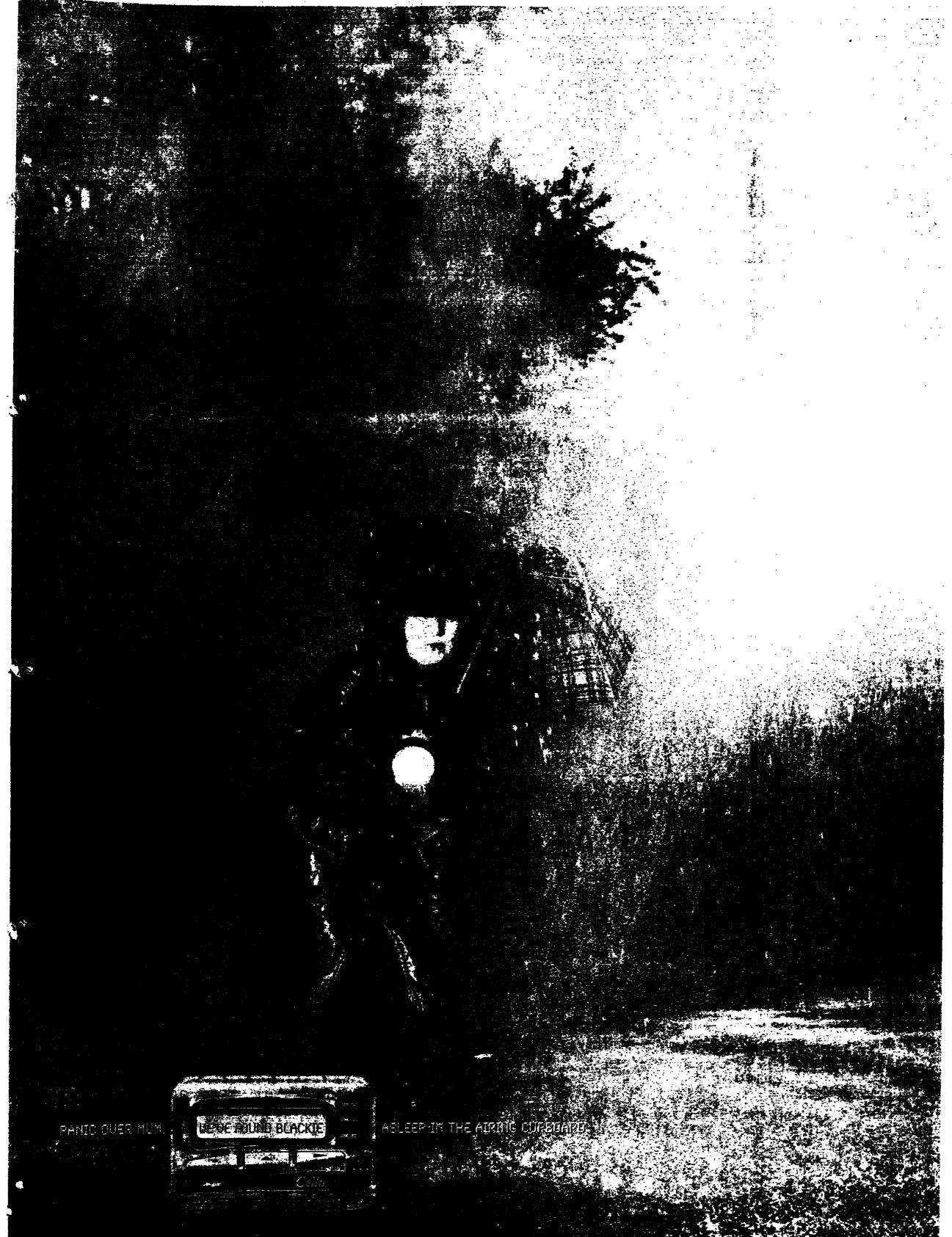
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'Mummy, the Serb says we must take our beds out now'

northern Bosnia - Fatima Mehicic was telling me that she feared for her home, when the door burst open and her illin-erate son Rasim rushed into the room. "Mummy," he said. "The Serb says we must take our beds out of the attic now." Rasim swayed on his feet, hungry and cold, as frightened as his mother and sick father Fakhrodin. They had all seen the document from the Serb authorities, informing Savo Ponjevic that he and his Serb refugee family from Dorni Vakuf could have the "use" of Fatima's family home. This was ethnic cleans ing post-Dayton style.

Fatima, her tired face framed by gaunt dark hair, wrung her hands in rage and anxiety, wip-ing away tears with her fingers. "I've no income of any kind we only get food from the humanitarian organisations and my son and daughter can't go to school," she wept. "This house was my grandfather's and I grew up here. Now it is legally owned by my nephew who is in Germany. When the Serb family arrived as refugees, I welcomed them - I told them, I was a refugee too - I know how you feel.' I let them have the downstairs rooms and two of the four attic rooms. Then they told me they wanted me out of the house altogether. And now they say I can't even live in

the outhouse." from the front lines at Dervenstroyed - Fatima moved to the old family home in Dubrava in 1992, aware that the Serb authorities were murdering and declaring repeatedly that she accepted the idea of living in the 'Serb Republic". Her fragile security remained intact until, just under a month ago, she heard

A new ethnic cleansing is in use now, Robert Fisk says in his series on life a year after the ceasefire

that Savo Ponjevic had obtained a legal document to appropriate her home. "I went to the municipality and appealed to keep my house and they gave me a paper to let me do that," Fatima said. "Savo accused me of bribing the official for it. How could I bribe anyone? I don't have a

Outside, a clutch of United

Nations officials and international policemen arrived, obaccord who are doing their best to shame the Serbs into leaving the 2,000 surviving Muslims of Dubrava alone. It is true that the Serb authorities gave Fatima a letter saying she could stay in the outhouse. Much good did it do her. When I knocked on Savo's A Muslim refugee herself, front door - the door of Fatima's family home - I was met ta-her own house there was de- by a proud, angry man whose voice, once we had sat down, grew so loud in fury that it vibrated on the coffee table in front of us. He immediately prodriving Muslims from their duced his own official Serb homes in northern Bosnia but document which was as uncompromising as his own lack of pity for Fatima.

'I bought my home in Dorni Vakut with my own money and the Muslims took it and it was

better than this house," he shouted. "My wife and three children and I were forced to wander from town to town. I moved to this house because the owner was not here. The Muslim woman is a relative of the owner but I have been living here for a year now. That woman comes from Derventa. Let her go back there and re-build her old home. If I could go back to my home in Dorni Vakuf, I would walk there barefoot." But Fatima's home in Derventa is destroyed, I said. "Then let her rebuild it," Savo boomed back. He was shaking

with anger now, his eyes as grey as lead. Savo slammed the pa-per on to the table in front of me. Signed by a Serb official, it says that Fatima's home - lot number 713/1 - was now given to Savo's family "to use along with all the movable property which they find in the above stated residence". "The home I owned in Dorni Vakuf belongs now to a Muslim called Rachmanovic," Savo roared. "Now

this house is mine. The war

hasn't ended for me - my chil-

dren have no future." In the corner of the room, his son and two daughters, the elder a beautiful teenager with an innocent, smiling face, sat staring at their father. A kind of madness had seized Savo and despite everything one could feel pity for him. An intrinsically middle-class, ordinary man. Savo had been driven by war to destroy his own generosity and. by extension, his own personality. Despite his remarks about his children, he has found places for them in local schools, unlike the woman he was evicting. And when I asked him if he could not be kind to Fatima, he turned on me like a wolf. "Why do you ask that?" he shouted. "What do you think I am? An animal? Give me back my home

in Dorni Vakuf. It's not I who



gave me the right to this house who are to blame. It is this piece of paper that is dividing us."

It was an extraordinary statement Savo had lived under communism for 35 years and now he still blamed the authorities for his very own act of appropriation. On the upstairs balcony of "his" home there now hung a Serb flag. Fatima was outside, talking to the UN men. only went to Derventa because my husband was from there. I thought the war would only last for a month and then I'd go back home. I regret most of all that my children see all this - and

they cannot even go to school." Beside her, a Muslim neighbour was shaking his head. "You see that abandoned house over there?" he asked me, pointing to a bleak old building in 1922. He was thrown out in 1945. Then others came and they were thrown out over the years. No one was ever happy there and no one will live there now. The Serbs in Fatima's house should remember an old

Bosnian saying. That which was taken by force is cursed." On Monday, Robert Fisk reports

Kenyans fear satanism charges mask witch-hunt

DAVID ORR and ILONA EVELEENS

Kenya is in the grip of satanism hysteria, with none other than President Daniel arap Moi leading the field. Human sacrifice, cannibalism and the satanic abuse of children are widespread in Kenya, according to a report commissioned by the President.

So sensitive are its findings, says President Moi, that it is impossible for the government to publish the document. Some opposition politicians are sug-gesting the only reason the government is refusing to publish the report is because members of the Kanu ruling party are themselves involved.

The Presidential Inquiry into the Cult of Devil Worship was set up a year ago. Represented on it are many of Kenya's leading church figures. "Owing to the sensitive nature of the information contained in the report and the legal implications of some of the findings, it is not appropriate for the government to make the findings public," said President Moi. However, many opposition members fear the satanism issue will become a pretext for a witch-hunt against them in the run-up to next year's general elections.

"He is getting ready to release selected parts of the report to discredit individual politicians," Pani Muite, a Kiknyu MP, told The Indepen have no doubt that I'm one of the people be's out to get. Satanism is a phantom, but in such a Christian country as ours this ploy could have a devastating impact on the opposition."

Mr Muite is, along with activist Richard Leakey, a founding member of the Safina movement which the government has refused to register as a political party. Mr Muite and other opposition politicians have called on the government to make the findings of the com-mission public. "The only reaon a mass grave at Sanski Most. | son the government doesn't

want to publish the report must be because many of its leading embers are involved." said Ford-Asili M. Philip Gitonga. "I believe this could go right up to President Moi himself

The Kenyan press frequent reports cases of witchcraft and monic possession. In recent weeks letters have appeared in newspapers calling on the au-thorities to cleause the country of "all devilish elements".

There is a strong chance that all this might be misinterpreted and people take justice into their own hands," said Professor GAM



President Moi: Refuses to publish devil worship report

Ogutu, head of religious studies at the University of Nairobi.

According to Kenya's East African Standard, the presiden-

tial commission has received information on such satanic practices as the kidnapping of children, rape, sexual abuse, marder and the ritual use of body parts in black masses. "There's no doubt that devil

Peace

forgot

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worship is getting worse and the ones involved are the big state; said Fr Ndikaru wa Ter Catholic priest in the town of Thika, "People who come to me for counselling say they are being offered large sums of mon-cy to attend satanic ceremonies. They have human and blood sacrifices at these rituals. I have good evidence that highranking politicians are involved and that they do these things to achieve their political ends".

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Malan cleared , in KwaZulu massacre trial

MARY BRAID

Magnus Malan, former South African defence minister, and four other apartheid-era gen-erals walked free from a court here yesterday, cleared, after a seven-month trial, of murder

and conspiracy charges.
Tim McNally, the KwaZulu-Natal Attorney general, failed to link the generals, the most senior members of the old regime to be charged with atrocities, and other security-force members, with six Zulu Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) cadres in the 1987 massacre of 13 people. Juring a prayer meeting in KwaMakutha, a village south of

ures, who called his first ap-pearance in court a dark day for democracy, said the verdict was

a triumph for justice.

Tienie Groenewald, former chief director of military intelligence, who had charges

to create an II which would a mich would be mic against him dismissed during the trial, said the acquittals vindicated the South African Defence Force (SADF) and hoped they would mark an end to "political trials".

Standing in a corner of the court grounds while the generals' families and IFP supporters celebrated, Mbusi Ntuli, 24, who lost three sisters - aged seven, 14 and 16 - and his father in the KwaMakutha massacre, said he and his mother Anna

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were disappointed. Like many, he believes the courts and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which encourages per-petrators of injustices to confess in return for amnesty, are failing to expose the truth or the

The Ntulis say prosecutors are reluctant to press charges

judges are reductant to convict.
This is justice in South Africa.

It has always been like this and

the judiciary are the same old

No one supported apartheid. It's denial on a grand scale. Pret-

lacked the will to win.

guilty people.

"We are bitter but we expected this verdict," said Mr
Nuli, whose brother Victor, an ANC activist, was the intended target of the 1987 attack. "Those who died were innocent children who knew nothing of the struggle. They were murdered, yet it seems no one killed them."

Mr McNally said that while. IFP supporters had perpetrated the massacre, Gen Malan and the other officers were also General Malan, one of the responsible because they had apartheid era's most hated figamong 200 IFP supporters re-cruited to "Operation Marionette", a secret SADF project to create an IFP military force which would combat the ANC

But the three main witnesses - Marionette recruits who turned state's evidence in return for indemnity – were rejected as unreliable by Judge Jan Hugo. He also ruled that military documents failed to prove the generals were part of a conspiracy to create IFP hit-squads.

On Thursday the six black IFP supporters were cleared of all charges and yesterday it was



ty soon we will be talking about-Happy man: Magnus Malan arriving at court in Durban for yesterday's verdicts

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GRADUATE SERVICE

Peace prize highlights forgotten Timor war

RICHARD LLOYD PARRY

In an announcement that will gravely embarrass the Indonesian government, and renew attention on one of the world's riorgotten" wars, the Nobel Peace Prize was yesterday awarded to the Catholic hishop of East Timor and an exiled Timorese resistance leader, for their work towards a peaceful settlement in

The \$1.12m (£700,000) prize all be shared equally by Bishop Cartos relipe Ximenes Belo and Joseikamos-Horta, a forer member of the East Timrese resistance and the territory's leading international spokesmen. In a devastaning ci-tation which will infuriate Jakarta the Norwegian Nobel Committee containeded the Committee considered the anen for their sections at their sections at the so the inflict in East Tipe In 1975 Indonesia

trol of East Timor and t systematically oppres in the years that followed it. has been estimated that one third of the population of East Timor lost their lives due to starvation, epidemics, war and ter-ror ... the Norwegian Nobel committee wants to houcus heir sustained and self-sacri-icing contributions for a small aut oppressed people. The announcement was w

omed by the Vatican and for ses international attention the tragic plight of East Intion to the conflict." Fimor, a former Portuguese colong invaded by Indonesia in 1975. Its annexation the following year has been repeated-ly condensed by the United Nations, and Indonesian troops have been involved in a bitter guerrilla war ever since with the dwindling East Timorese

In 1991, more than 200 East Timorese died and scores of others "disappeared" when troops fired on mourners at a cemetery in the capital, Dili. Despite repeated claims that its annexation is supported by the majority of East Timorese, the problem remains an acute embarrassment to the government of President Subarto, which. European Parliament. "I am will only be accentuated by the Nobel Committee's Australian radio yesterday. appouncement.

We are quite surprised and refret that such are justified in Bishop Belo, is Xanana Gusstitution could award sperson like Ramos-Hortz with had been clearly involved in the leader of resistance." Since 1992 Mr. Gusmao has been and manipulating the people of serving a 20-year sentence in East Timor to separate from the



unitary republic of Indonesia, the Indenesian Foreign Office said yesterday.

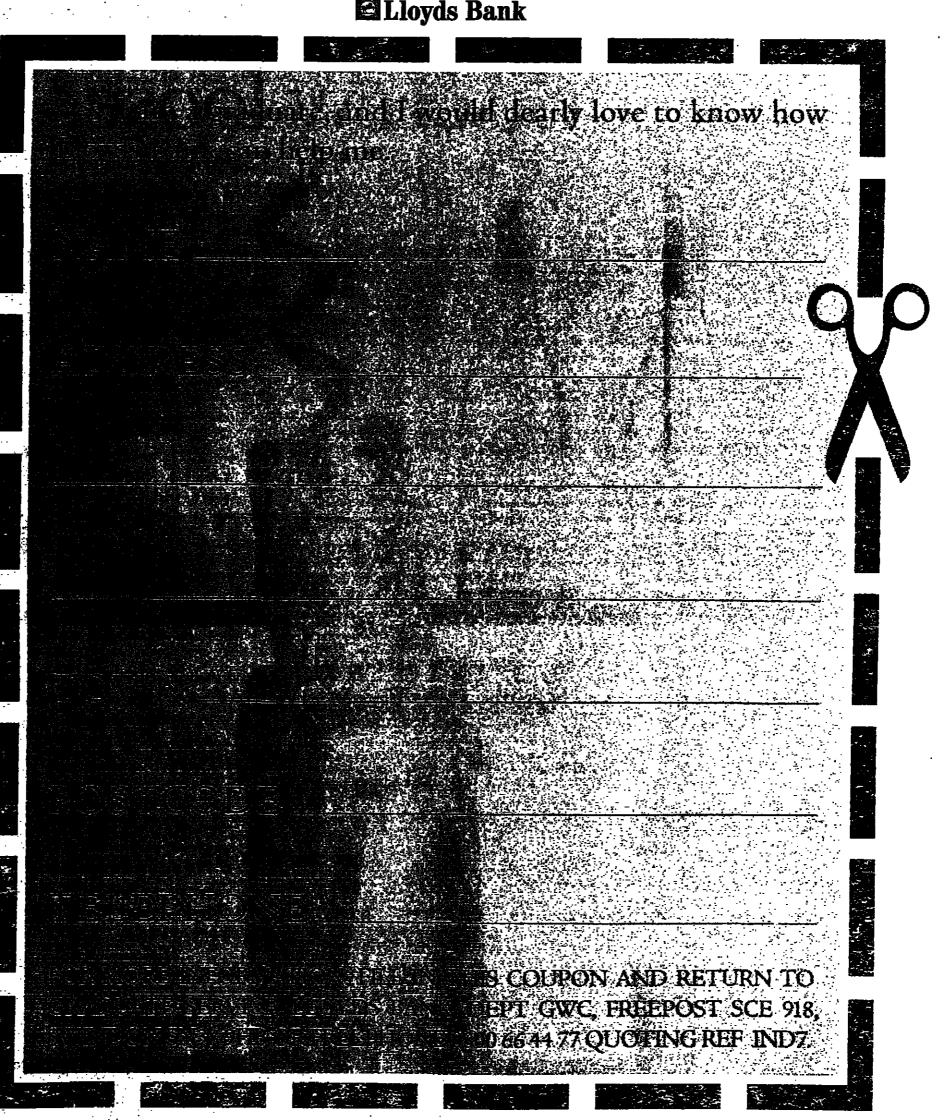
"This was about to become a feirgotten conflict," Francis Seistead, chairman of the prize committee, said in Oslo. "By liverding this prize, we hope to contribute to a diplomatic so-

Apart from its monetary val-ing the award will boost the pro-file of the 48-year-old Bishep-Belo, who has become a symbol of peaceful resistance since his appointment to the mostly Catholic territory in 1983. He has repeatedly criticised the Indonesian military and calledfor a referendum on self-de-

The bishop has received death threats and lives under constant surveillance by Indonesian intelligence officers in his home in Dili.

Mr Ramos-Horta, who lives in Australia, is the author of a detailed peace proposal pre-sented in 1992 to the UN and obviously happy," he told

"But I feel that the man who should have earned it along with





Scandinavia takes on its gangland warriors.

TONY BARBER Copenhagen

Scandinavian governments, shocked into action by a missile attack that killed two people and wounded 19 in Copenhagen, announced plans yesterday to crack down on motorcycle gang warfare, which is undermining the region's reputation for tran-quillity and safety. The justice ministers of Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden said they would create a register of stolen weapons, examine the personal finances of bikers to see if they had obtained money ille-gally and co-ordinate police investigations into motorcycle crime across the region.

The Danish parliament has assed a law aimed at driving biker clubhouses out of residential neighbourhoods. The legislation was adopted four days after an anti-tank missile was fired at the Copenhagen HIDEOUTS OF THE HELLS ANGELS

headquarters of the Hell's Anpolice havearrested a Bandidos gels, killing a would-be gang member and a young mother supporter after discovering another anti-tank device buried who was attending a party there but had no other connection under a garage in Kulhuse, 25 miles north of Copenhagen. Last weekend's violence in

the Danish capital had in some

respects a tragic inevitability

about it. Far from taking action

ous and criminal activities, the

stay in their headquarters at Ti-

tangade, the street where the

nissile exploded.

for the attack lies with the Bandidos, a gang which has been in violent conflict with the Hell's to suppress the gangs' murder-Angels since it moved into the Copenhagen city council has paid large sums in rent support to enable the Hell's Angels to

Other missiles from that break-in have been fired at Hell's Angels chibhouses in other parts of Denmark.

Danish experts on biker gangs criticised the Copenhagen authorities for not banning last Sunday's so-called "Viking party" at which the missile was directed. The woman who died was one of a number of local people whom the Hell's Angels had invited, in an apparent effort to improve their

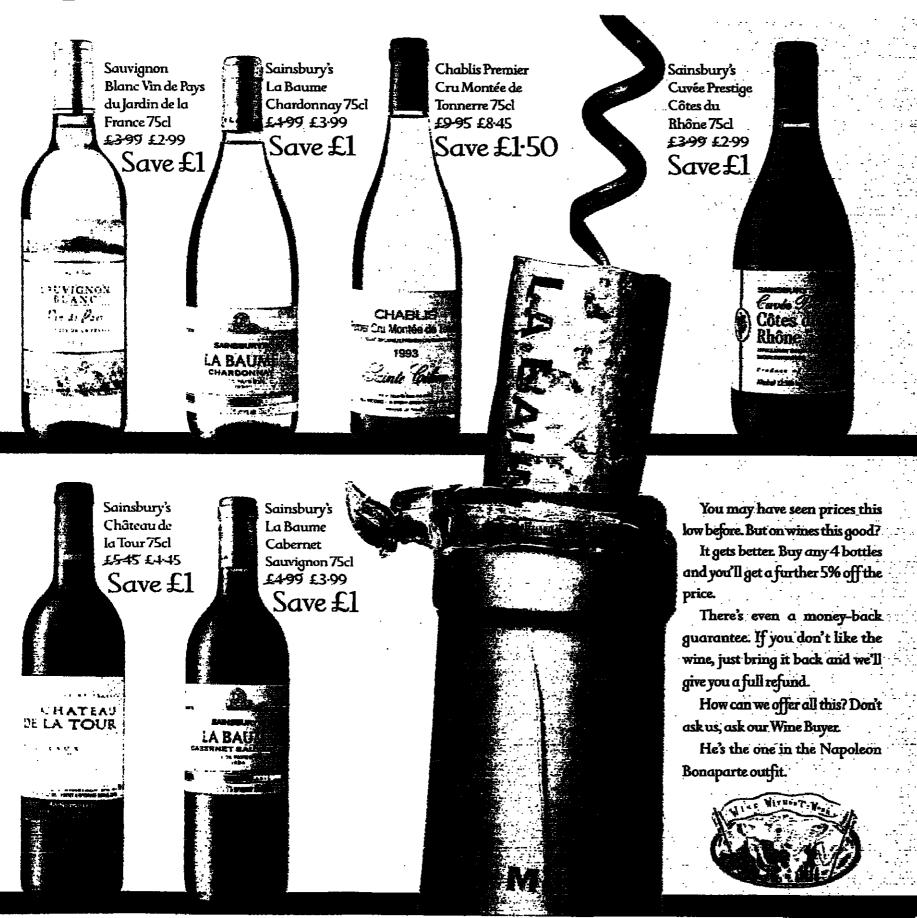
mage in the neighbourhood. Danish police said yesterday that they had seized documents at a Hell's Angels meeting place last week that indicated the gang was planning to expand into castern Europe. Countries marked down for new operations included Belarus, Estonia,

Latvia, Russia and Ukraine. Nine people have been killed and almost 50 wounded since 1994 in the feud in the region between Hell's Angels and Ban-didos. One of the worst incidents occurred last March when the Danish Bandido leader, Uffe Larsen, was shot dead at Copenhagen airport after he and his fellow bikers were am-

Despite the fortress-like ap-pearance of the Hell's Angels premises, the mayor, Jens bushed by a rival gang. Kramer Mikkelsen, insisted Less than a year before that, on thinking of it as a "comthe newly elected Bandido president, Mikael Ljunggren, was munity centre" or "youth club" rather than a nerve-centre of killed by a sniper while riding violence and crime. However, his bike near the Swedish city as the number of violent inciof Helsingborg. Police said dents in densely populated ar-eas rose, local people grew increasingly angry at the kid-glove treatment of the bikers, those responsible were either Hell's Angels or a Bandido faction opposed to Ljunggren's leadership.

many of whom live largely on However, biker gangs are welfare benefits and the proend's attack was stolen in 1994 as early as the mid-Seventies.

Fine wine at plonky prices. Have Sainsbury's got a corkscrew loose?



Spain quashes child-porn ring**

ELIZABETH NASH

Spanish police, helped by the US Justice department, say they have dismantled Europe's pornography on the Internet. Police raids on the homes of two telecommunications students near Barcelona sparked furious demands yesterday for a crackdown on child pornography, which is not a crime in Spain.

The two computer wizards, aged 20 and 21, are accused of making a fortune by trafficking "horrific" pornographic images of children as young as three throughout the world, police

Police confiscated videotapes, contact lists and 4,000 computer files of "naked chil-

dren aged three or four engaged with other minors or with adults", the biggest such haul in Europe. Police said the images themselves had been filmed in pean countries. More detentions are expected.

pornographic archive in Vic. near Barcelona, by exchanging or buying images through the In-

ternet, using stolen passwords. The police raid, the climax of four months of investigation agents of the US Treasury department - prompted shrill demands yesterday for stricter egulation of the Internet and stiffer penalties for child pornography.



Once he bestrode world politics like a colossus; now he's all but forgotten. But Mikhail Gorbachev would still like his superpower back. He talks to Ian Parker about politics and American movies

Photo synthesis: Eve Arnold celebrates the life and work of Robert Capa

Plus: new fiction by Junot Díaz, Helen Fielding on country house hotels, and Terence Conran on design

IN TOMORROW'S

OFFERS ON WINES FEATURED AVAILABLE UNTIL 28 OCTOBER 1898. FURTHER OFFERS AVAILABLE IN-STORE UNTIL 11 NOVEMBER

Dole seeks a lifeline as 'bozos' enter fray

JOHN CARLIN Cincinnati

A small body of Bill Climon supporters dressed up in frizzy wigs and red noses turned up at a Bob Dole election rally in Cincinnati, south-west Ohio, one of the few corners of the United States where the Republican presidential candidate holds a small lead in the polls. The Clinton clowns held up home-made banners identifying themselves as members of a new political movement called BAD: "Bozos Against Dole."

The joke was not lost on the 2,000 people at the rally.Cincinnati, a bland mid-west city, dis-tinguished itself in the 1992 election as the only metropolitan centre with more than a million inhabitants to give George Bush an absolute majority.

In the most dramatic and heavily reported incident of a moribund campaign week, a man called out to Mr Dole during an election stop in New Jersey: "Please get Bozo out of the White House". Mr Dole shot back: "Bozo's on his way out."

That, to the frustration of Republican insiders, is the closest the former senator from Kansas has got to attacking President Clinton where he is weakest - on his character and morals. It seems, despite his supporters' pleading, that Mr Dole is refusing to stoop to the "attack dog" style of campaigning.
Twenty points behind Mr

Clinton in the national polls, overall in Ohio, a state that no successful Republican presidential candidate has ever lost, he lags by eight points. Yet noth-ing at Cincinnati, Mr Dole's first leg on a two-day bus tour of Ohio, suggested any sense of ur-gency, and the BAD jokers

quashe

orn rin

MARIE

sought in vain to goad him. A large, limping man in a green jacket stood before the podium brandishing a sign which read: "Only in America" a cardboard box while a draft

dodger sleeps in the White House." But Mr Dole, the Sec-ond World War hero, did not rise to this buit, either. And, as if it were a campaign for a new mayor, a band played "Soul Man" on stage as little American flags were waved along with "Dole-Kemp '96" posters and round yellow signs that said "15 per cent" - the size of the tax cut Mr Dole is promising but perhaps an accurate indicator of the size of the vote he will attract in November.

In fact the man who got the loudest cheer of the day, was re-tired general Colin Powell there for the first time on the campaign trail, endorsing the man most Republicans regret they chose. Mr Powell spoke of Mr Dole's war wounds and of his "deep love for America", describing the candidate as "a straightforward man" who could be relied upon to set about "the restoration of the American family

Yet the Republicans' products for sale are old goods, according to the polls. And Mr Dole did little to dispel that impression. "The election this year is between stealth liberals ism," he said. "They don't want you to know they're liberal, but I'm going to tell you every time ... they're liberal."

It was tired stuff, even more uscless now. President Clinton having spent the past 12 months making Republican policy his very own. But the Cincinnati faithful waved their little flags and whooped, suspending disbelief, and ignoring the larger truth contained in a giant red sign dominating Fountain Square, just behind the Republican stage. "Restaurant Rock Bottom", the sign read.



حمكذا من الأصل

Capturing souls: Bob Dole starts up his Ohio tour with a jazz band. The Republican candidate has still to set the campaign trail alight as the presidential race nears its final stages Photograph: Stephen Jaffe/Reuters

Far right breaks grip of Red Vienna's rulers

Central Europe Correspondent

Vienna — After more than 50 years of unchallenged rule. Austria's Social Democrats are on the brink of losing absolute power in the city referred to for decades as "Red Vienna". Polls

suggest the party could slump to a humiliating 40 per cent in tomorrow's council elections. and may have to woo potential coalition partners.

The main beneficiary is likely to be Jörg Haider, leader of the far-right Freedom Party, who has fanned the flames of xenophobia in a city which has witnessed a sharp rise in immigration from Eastern Europe and the former Yugoslavia. Founded in 1889, the Aus-

trian Social Democrats (formerly Socialists) came to power in Vienna in 1920 after the collapse of the Habsburg monarchy. They held it until 1934, when they were banned by the

fascist regime.
"Red Vienna" became a model for social democrats everywhere," Professor Gerhard Jagschitz at the city's Institute for Contemporary

History said. The term stood for everything that was modern,

moral and progressive.

When the Social Democrats returned to power in Vienna in 1945, they vowed to continue in the same vein, initiating scores of new building programmes and job creation schemes. It day more than 25 per cent of the city's housing is in public hands, the highest proportion of any west European capital, and hundreds of thousands of Viennese are employed, either directly of indirectly, by the city

government. The years of Social Democrat rule have coincided with an unparalleled rise in prosperity. But Mr Haider, who once praised Hitler's employment policies, says that "red monopoly rule" has simply bred cor-

ruption.

He is likely to win 25 per cent
of the vote in the council poli and in the vote for the European Parliament which is also being held tomorrow - not enough to bring him to power, but a reminder of his continually rising popularity and the threat he represents to the established order.

Aptiva. It's just like being at the office, only the coffee is better.



significant shorts

hover over Tapie's bones

this weekend, disputing the remains of Bernard Tapie's political power base - his. parliamentary constituency of Gardanne near Marseille. The by-election, to be held tomorrow, was declared after Mr Tapie, showman turned football manager turned politician, was forced to resign his seat after losing his appeals against a fraud conviction and bankruptcy.

But Mr Tapie's resignation left problems - the main one being how to prevent the seat falling to the extreme right National Front, giving it its first seat in the present parliament. To keep the seat, the left has parachuted in tough but tender Bernard Kouchner, a minister in the last Socialist government and founder of the charity Médècins sans Frontières. The two other candidates are the local Euro-MP from the Gaullist right and the Communist mayor of Gardanne. Mary Dejevsky - Paris

Vote vultures Battles bring chaos to vital Kabul link

The vultures are out in force Government forces loyal to the ousted Afghan military head, Ahmad Shah Masood launched offensives on insurgent Taliban troops along a vital stretch of highway between the capital Kabul, and the Salang Pass.

"The highway between here and Kabul is chaotic -Taliban hold some parts and we hold other parts," said Abdul Bashir Salanghi, one of Masood's commanders.

Ebola virus kills seven

Seven people have died of the deadly Ebola virus in Gabon, the second such outbreak in the central African nation this year, health officials said. Dr André Ndikuyeze of the World Health Organisation in Congo said three others had developed Ebola symptoms. AP -- Brazzaville, Congo



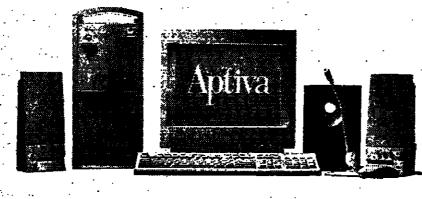
Yes, BT changed their ads a bit. They even changed their prices ... a bit. But we're still at least 20% cheaper for international calls weekday evenings and all weekend. For details FreeCall 0500 500 366. Come back Mr Hoskins, all is forgiven.

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Solutions for a small planet

Terry Patchett

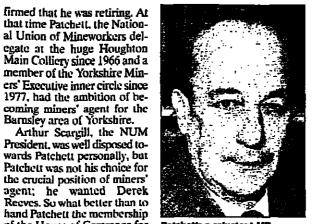
That any man or woman today should become a member of the House of Commons reluctantly and, not to exaggerate, against their will, is a rare occurrence. To inherit a 17,500 Barnsley East in a bad year for a party such as 1983 would be the envy of any Labour hopeful. Yet. Terry Patchett was indeed a reluctant MP.

In Barnsley, history was repeating itself. In 1951 when Frank Collindridge died after he had been nominated during the election campaign there was the nurried selection of Sidney Schotield. In an election a month after the general election. Schoffeld had a 28,227 majority; yet in March 1953, after some 18 months' experience of the Commons, he insisted on re-signing his seat because he did not like Westminster (and in doing so he made possible the long political career of another miner, Roy Mason, now

MP for Dearne Valley, con-

that time Patchett, the National Union of Mineworkers delegate at the huge Houghton Main Colliery since 1966 and a member of the Yorkshire Minmajority in a safe seat such as ers' Executive inner circle since 1977, had the ambition of becoming miners' agent for the Barnsley area of Yorkshire. Arthur Scargill, the NUM

President, was well disposed towards Patchett personally, but Patchett was not his choice for the crucial position of miners' agent; he wanted Derek Reeves. So what better than to hand Patchett the membership of the House of Commons for Dearne Valley as a consolation prize for not becoming miners' agent? Besides, I am told by a then young delegate who was himself present (and is now a parliamentary colleague), at the crucial miners' meeting the feeling had been expressed under "Any other business": "Ned Wainwright was ours: it's a min-Lord Mason of Barnsley). er's seat; we've a right to In early 1982 Edwin (Ned) Dearne Valley." Patchett deer's seal; we've a right to Wainwright, the long-serving murred. However, disappoint-



agent for Barnsley, he caved in and became parliamentary candidate for Dearne Valley. A year later, in May 1983, on boundary changes, he was re-selected for the newly created Barnsley East seat, comprising one-third of the former Dearne Valley constituency, and two-thirds of old Hemsworth.

Patchett confided to his friends that he did not care for

mons and that the Chamber in particular was not to his taste. He said that when he had a Prime Minister's Question Time question on the order paper he could hardly get a wink of sleep the night before. Yet when he did ask a question he tended to be effective as it came from the heart - I pever heard Patchett make a juvenile, malign, or silly statement in the House. He thought he owed it to the Yorkshire mining community to represent them with dignity, and he did just that. The House of Commons was better for having this honourable man among so

many obsessed politicians.

On arrival he opposed strongly the publication of the memoirs of the Yorkshire Ripper and his family, feeling that crime should not pay. In his maiden speech he launched serious criticism of the Petroleum Royalties (Relief) Bill. He labelled it an "indirect subsidy to the oil industry" whose "ex-treme cost will be borne by the taxpayer through the cost of the dole". He said its function was "to bring the National Union of

Mineworkers to its knees at any price". Patchett condemned the double standards of those who bad-mouthed Arthur Scargill but sang the praises from the tree-tops of Lech Walesa for doing precisely the same thing defending his trade union.
The 1984 miners' strike was

fervently loyal to the NUM but appalled at what the strike was doing to the community which had cradled him and in whose service he had spent his life. He told me that he had been assaulted on the picket line by the police in April 1984 for giving no provocation whatsoever. I expressed astonishment, pointing out that in Scotland there had been no such trouble in my constituency because many of the police themselves came from mining families and knew that they had to live with the miners after the strike. I have never seen Patchett so furious. He pointed out that it was not the Yorkshire Police who had done this to him but arrogant young puppies sent up from the Metropolitan Police, who knew

an agony for Patchett. He was

nothing about the North of holme Cargo Terminal Bill de-England. If Margaret Thatch-signed to increase the possibiler is surprised that some people hated her so vehemently she need look no further than a decent man like Terry Patchett and his reaction to what he saw as her making a difficult situation worse for her own, not even her party's, political advantage. Patchett spent most of 1985

and subsequent years on the select committee on the Social Services, where he was a conscientious and valuable coileague. He was particularly incensed about the shut-down of his local colliery, Darfield Main. I remember his talking to his colleagues quietly, as was his wont, about a level of crime which had never occurred in South Yorkshire pre-strike and what on earth he should do about a schoolmate, a murdering rapist, freed from a top security mental hospital. He asked us whether he should advocate the return of this man to the community in which the parents of his victim still lived.

Patchett campaigned vigorously against the North Killingity of importing foreign coal. Why should skilled Yorkshire miners go unemployed while 14year-olds in Colombia or elsewhere were ruthlessly exploited when they should be at school? He urged the Government to reconsider ending the provision of finance to the pressurised fluidised coal combustion at Grimethorpe in November 1988 and held up to ridicule the Bill to privatise electricity as guarding nuclear power against

among big companies. He saw as mad the closure of the reserve-rich Barnburgh Colliery in his constituency and made the charge that safety rules would be watered down. As one who had been active on appeal committees on behalf of the NUM, he probably knew more about mining safety than any other recent member of the House of Commons. This experience is often more valuable than great eloquence.

competition and allowing competition for cheaper power only

Terry Patchett may have

thought that his time in the House of Commons had been -a mistake. His colleagues take a rather different view: that he was a valuable and increasingunusual contributor to the democratic process.

The last occasion Patchett saw the Palace of Westminster was when he was counted through the lobby at 10 o'clock on 26 February 1996 when the Government won by 320 to 319 votes on the Scott Report. It was typical of his courage and loyalty that he should, against doctors' advice and with no pressure from the Labour whips, have insisted on risking his life to turn up.

Tam Dalvell

Terry Patchett, miner and politician: born Darfield, South York-shire 11 July 1940; member, Wombwell District Council 1969-73; Houghton Main NUM Branch delegate, Yorkshire Min-er's Executive 1976-83; MP (Labour) for Barnsley East 1983-96; married 1961 Glenys Veal (one son, two daughters); died 11

Mark Frankel

The tragic death of the actor Mark Frankel occurred just as he was on the verge of a double breakthrough: the US television series Fortune Hunter, in which he played Carlton Dial. ex-British Secret Service, had premiered on Sky TV, and the feature film Roscanna's Grave in which he played a key role had just completed its final mix.

Frankei, though, was known in this country for two roles in two independent British features, neither terribly good but both mercifully free of the shackles of a cramped television look, and both achieved substantial theatrical release, although to little box-office effect.

He was Leon the Pig Farmer. in Vadim Jean and Gary Sinyor's 1993 film of that name, top-billed over a motley cast of industry professionals, in an appallingly directed farrago. Nevertheless, Leon the Pig-Fanner was cannily exploited, and despite being over-length and vulgar, was widely seen by cinema professionals and the nature of its remshackle funding drew great attention. In a cast allowed free rein to over- to pay for acting classes. After act, the oudding-basin-shagey-

acquitted himself well in the the lead, he next went into A leading role, underplaying and securing sympathy for a faintly ridiculous character forced to do overtly ridiculous things. Since the plot never held water (the line of Jewish descent is through the mother, so it doesn't actually matter who Lcon's father is) it's a measure of Frankel's talent that he made the whole

exercise eminently watchable. It led to another film directed by Gary Sinyor, Solitaire for 2 (1995), as arch and as naive as its title, co-starring Frankel as a successful businessman who falls for Amanda Pays, an archaeologist with ESP. The film is neither as funny nor as chic as it thinks it is, but the central performances hold it together, just, surprisingly well. Again, though, there was no audience, though its reviews would have kept away even an

unpoying audience. Mark Frankel always wanted to act. Although he achieved success as an under-21 tennis player, his heart was set on the stage, and he took a variety of iobs, including mini-cabbing,

Streetcar named Desire at the Stanhope Theatre and then enrolled on a three-year course at Webber-Douglas. On finishing, he played the lead in Days of Cavafy above the Finborough Arms in Earls Court, where he was spotted by a casting director, and fetched up in a pair of mini-series – as the young Michelangelo in Michelangelo – Season of Giants (1991), opposite F. Murray Abraham, and as Orlov in Young Catherine (also 1991). These were followed by

a billionaire recluse in the 16-

an early affection for motorcross. At 10 he stripped down a moped, and his then cur-Harley Davidson. His tragic death in a Hampstead motor-bike accident robs British cinema of a promising new matinée idol, important for being, as his work indicates, an overtly Jewish talent, for in Britain, our Jewish matinée idols like, Leslie Howard, Michael Rennie or, latterly, Daniel Day Lewis, have been overtly assimilationist. whereas in America such stars the role of Marcel in the six-part as Jeff Chandler, Kirk Douglas, Granada Maigret television or Tony Curtis revel in their Jewdrama Maigrei and the Mad-woman (1992), and the part of ish origins. Mark Frankel's fam-ily also lost his elder brother, Joe, in a 1990 accident.

part Sisters for Warner Bros TV. Admirers still have one His casting as Leon the Pig movie left though, and in a stroke of serendipitous casting Farmer came about because, quite independently, he was selected for the role by both cothat all movie buffs will note, the two screen Leons share a film producer and co-director. Leon together, Leon (The Profesmade him known, and he folsional, 1994), Jean Reno, and lowed that, before Solitaire for Leon the Pig Farmer, Mark 2, with a "Ruth Rendell Mys-Frankel, in Roseanna's Grave to tery", Vanity Dies Hard, and a be premiered next year. "Rik Mavall Presents", Clair de

Tony Sloman

In the press release for Soli- Mark Frankel, actor. born London



dog hairs tyled Mark Frankel . Isamemuon, in which he played love of fast bikes, stemming from died London 24 September 1996. Frankel, centre, with Bernard Bresslaw (left) and Peter Whitmen in Leon the Pig Farmer, 1993

Photograph: Ronald Grant Archive

Susan Gautier Smith

No one loved life more than Susan Gautier Smith. A television producer who worked with the comedians David Baddiel. Steve Coogan, Patrick Marber, Armando Iannucci, Chris Morris and others, there was no dark side to her.

The elder of two daughters of a neurologist. Susic was educated at Wimbledon High School and the Evece, where she won an Exhibition to study English at King's College, Cambridge. It was here that her flair as a producer emerged, notably on the European four of Tie-Resi Utile Whorehouse in Texas for the director Sam Mendes and with David Baddiel on his Footlights pantemine Robbs Head. Despite suffering from rheumatoid arthritis from childhood, which often left her tired and in pain, she had boundless.



energy; one summer vacation was spent travelling through

After a year spent teaching in a crammer, Gautier Smith be-

gan her career in television by making corporate health videos.

including one about proctoscopy, which became a source of much amusement. Her break came at Yorkshire Television. where she began as a runner on Lucinda Lambton's architecture series Hooray For Today, Soon afterwards she was despatched to Los Angeles to charm a reclusive Californian boffin into making a programme about computer hackers. She won him over immediately; the result was Spy Catcher, which she

Lune (both 1995).

cult creative types, coupled with her legendary phone book. which made Gautier Smith a natural producer. On one oceasion she had a day to find five bellringers, a troupe of acrobats who could juggle toasters, some Archers lookalikes, several

dwarves and a naughty seaside postcard model; she of course took it all in her stride.

In 1992. Gautier Smith went to New York University to study film production. In America, her zest for life found full expression; one friend recalls a wild weekend in Washington which culminated with a visit to a gay club - she had many gay friends, as well as loyal girlfriends and smitten boyfriends
- with Gautier Smith dancing on a podium, surrounded by a

It was this genius for getting on with people, including diffiwas a black velvet bustier by Vivienne Westwood, which showed her spectacular bosom to full advantage. On her 30th birthday three years ago, for which she paid (with characteristic generosity) for two dozen friends to spend the

TOMORROW: Births: Allan Ram-

weekend in a grand country house, she emerged for the evening in bustier and blonde wig, the perfect look for her

husky voice. Back in Britain, Gautier Smith began her association with Talkback Productions, where she worked on The Day Today, Knowing Me, Knowing You and Saturday Night Armistice. Successful as she was, she was never consumed by ambition or schmoozing her

way up the greasy pole. Happiness was something she pursued with more passion and in 1993 she met her match in Matthew Batstone, whom she had first known at Cambridge. Though thoroughly settled (he called Susie "The Boss") they were never stuffy; their wedding, in May 1995, was a glorious celebration: prayers were read

Hysterical women have been worrying the clergy in the diocese of Oxford. Clergy

counsellors are warned to be on their

guard against them in the new guidelines

for pastoral care issued by the diocese last

disasters. Even shallow, vivacious, flirta-

tious people can feel down sometimes, they

said; so down, on occasions, that they start

questioning whether unimbibited displays

by a gay vicar; the bride wore a silver dress; the wedding cake was a mocked-up cover of

In January this year, Matthew got a place at Fontainebleau to do an MBA and Susie, a fluent French speaker, went too. With customary organisational skill, she immediately got pregnant; the couple talked of hav-ing four children.

The pregnancy wasn't easy; Susie had chronic morning sickness and suffered from breathlessness, which was attributed to asthma. Despite these discomforts, she was thrilled to be starting a family and enjoyed ber new shape. (She had in the past sometimes worried about her weight.) In July, when she was four months pregnant. Susie and Matthew went on holiday

to South Africa, a place they

considered raising their broad. It was during this trip that Susie Gautier Smith suffered her first heart failure and it emerged that her breathlessness intensive care for a fortnight, her condition stabilised and she came home in August for

hospital treatment. Tragically, she suffered a second heart failure and lost the baby at seven months. Courageous to the end, she died earlier this week, leaving a gaping hole in many

Ruth Picardie

Susie Gautier Smith's slightly wobbly walk, a combination of over-ambitious shoes and persistent arthritis, always raised a laugh and it was usually from her, writes Roger Clarke.

was always magically and effusively sexy; even the drab business of producing science documentaries for Yorkshire was in fact cardiomyopathy. In TV in the late Eighties was given a special glamour by her. When she moved on to making television comedies and various vehicles for the Smith & Jones company Talkback, her career seemed ever upwards. She will be much missed at

of the chronically ill person. She

the wedding of her childhood friend Emily Sheard, who is married today in the Isle of Wight, scene of Susie's many holidays as a little girl with the Sheard family in Freshwater.

Susan Gautier Smith, television producer: born London 10 September 1963; married 1995 Matthew Batstone: died London She confounded every image 8 October 1996.

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Amounteements for Gazette BIRTHS.
MARRIAGIS & DEATHS Births
Adaptions, Marrages, Beaths, Memorad create, Wedding aminersaries, In
Memorature should be sent in writing
to the Gazette Edition. The independent.
It is also proposed to me White Long. I Cameia Square, Canars Wharf, Lop-don L14 51th, telephoned to 0171-293 2011 (24-hour inswering machine 0171-293-2012) or fated to 0171-203-2010, not are charged at \$6.50 a line (AA) extra). OTHER Gazette innouncements institute, functions, Forth-coming marriages, Marriages) must be submitted in writing our faved) and are charged at \$10 a line, VAT estra. They should be accompanied by a daytime telephone number.

Appointments Ms Phyllida Stewart-Roberts, to be

Vice 1 and Location and M. Earl Sussex Mr Colin Donald Norman Campbell, to be a Master of the Supreme Court Taylor Ulface Mrs Saffy Williams, to be a District udge on the South Eastern Circuit.

Mr Francis John Wilkinson, to be a District Indee on the South Eastern Mr Roger Thomas Dutton, to be a Circuit mage, Water and Citester Cir-

Mrs Catherine Jeanette Tribe, to be Regional Charman et Industrial Internation.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS T(3) Vi. Prince Michael of Kent mend the Common of Pedediction of HMS System (1906) adolesis, Royal Newd Sup-port Establishment, Royal Newd Sup-port Establishment, Royalth, Scotland Changing of the Guard

LOBAL Tex Households and a Mount ed Regement rooms the Outen's Life Goard at Horse Guards, 11 m 10-MORROW, The Household Cavalry Mounted Resourced or units the Oricen-Life Grand of Horse Guards, from F Company Scots Financis mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace. [] want band provided by the Scot-

TODAY: Lady Brook, founder, Ad-

rony Centre for Young People, 8% Professor Juliet Cheetham, socioloist, 57: Dame Elizabeth Chesterion, architect, 81: Mr Jaroslav Drobny ormer teams player, 75; Mr Anthony Figers, ambassador to Austria, Soc Mr. enneth Griffith, actor, writer and documentary film maker, 75; Mr Robert Heron, former director, Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. th Mr Jonathan Holborow, editor, the Mail on Sanday, 55; Mr Magnus and writer, to: Dr John Moffatt, former Provost. The Queen's College, Oxford, 74: Mr Rick Parlitt, guitar player and singer, 48; Vice-Admiral Sir John Parker, 81; Mr Luciano Pararotti, operatic tenor, 61: Miss Angela Rippon, television presenter. 52: Mr David Threlfall, actor, 43: Mr Michael Verey, merchant banker, 84: Mr Nigel Waterson MP, 46: Sir David White, chairman, Nottingham Health Authority, 67; Mr David

TONIORROW: Air Vice-Marshal John Allen-Jones, 67: Sir Thomas Birgham, Master of the Rolls, 63: Mr Roger Carnek, High Commissioner (a) Australia, 30; Mrs Edwina Currie MP, 50; Miss Largine Day, across, 76; Sir Denis Forman, former direcor, British Film Institute, 79: Sir Ledie Fowden, former director of Rothamsted Experimental Station, 1: Sir Röger Gibbs, chairman, the Wellcome Trust, 62: Mr Anthony Harris, ambassador to the United Arab Emirates, 55; Sir Michael Hutchison, a Lord Justice of Appeal. 63: Mr John Menzies, chairman, John Menzies, 70; Miss Marie Ossond, singer, 37; Air Chief Marshal Sir Frederick Rosier, \$1: Mr Paul Siion, singer and songwriter, 55; Mr. John Simpson, chief Editor, Orford

Englas: Deciamore, 43: Miss Resembly

Anne Sixon, author and scriptwriter,

7: Baroness Thatchet, former prime

minister, 71: Mr Mordecai Vanunu. nuclear technician, 42; Mr Peter Vereker, UK Permanent Representative, OECD, Paris, 57; Sir Mark Waller, a Lord Justice of Appeal, 56.

Anniversaries TODAY: Births: Edward VI, King of England, 1537; Theodore Walter Watts-Dunton, poet, critic and nov-elist, 1832; Ralph Vaughan Williams, composer, 1872; Aleister Edward Alexander Crowley, author and oc-cultist. 1875. Deaths: Piero della Francesca, painter and writer, 1492: Elizabeth Fry (Gurney). Quaker prison reformer. 1845; Robert Stephenson, civil engineer. 1859; Robert Edward Lee, general, 1870; Dinah Maria Mulock Craik, novelist, 1887; Joseph-Ernest Renan, historian and philosopher, 1892; Edith Louisa Cavell, nurse, executed by the Germans 1915; Anatole France (Jacques-Anatole Thibault), author. 1924: Edwin Abbott Abbott, theologian, teacher and scholar, 1926; Dean Gooderham Acheson, states-man, 1971. On this days an island in the West Indies was discovered by Christopher Columbus, which he named San Salvador, 1492; a powder magazine exploded at Delft, largely destroying the city, 1654; the borough councillors of Poplar, London, were released from prison, where they had been committed for refusing to levy certain rates. 1921; an iron lung was used for the first time, at Boston, Massachusetts, 1928; the first Morris Minor car designed by Alec Issigonis was produced at Cowley, Oxfordshire, 1948; Equatorial

Guinea became independent, 1968;

the XIXth Olympic Games opened in Mexico City, 1968: Gerald Ford

was nominated US Vice-President by Richard Nixon, 1973; Today is the

Feast Day of St Edwin, St Ethelburga

of Barking, Saints Felix and Cypri-an. St Maximilian of Loren and St

Wiltrid of York.

TOMORROW: Births: Allan Ramsav, portrait painter. 1713; Lillie (Emilie Charlotte) Langtry, actress, 1853; Mary Henrietta Kingsley, writer and explorer, 1862; Walter James Redfern Timner, poet, music critic and playwright, 1889. Deaths: Claudius I, Roman Emperor, poisoned by his wife Agrippina 54; Nicolas de Malebranche, philoso-pher. 1715; Dr John Gill. Baptist preacher, 1771; Joschim Murat, King of the Two Sicilies, executed 1815: Antonio Canova, sculptor, 1822; Sir Henry Irving (John Henry Bro-dribb), actor, 1905; Willie Clarkson, theatrical costumier and wigmaker. 1934; Sidney James Webb, first Baron Passfield, social reformer. 1947; Walter Houser Brattain, physicist, and an inventor of the transistor, 1987. On this day: the foundation stone of the White House, Washington, was taid by President George Washington, 1792; Greenwich was adopted as the universal meridian at the Washington Conference, 1884; Ankara became the new capital of Turkey, 1923; Italy declared war on Germany, 1943; the Allies liberated Athens, 1944; the first London production of the musical The Pajama Game was presented, 1955. Tomorrow is the Feast Day of St Coloman, St Comgan, St Edward the Confes-sor, St Faustus of Cordova, St Ger-ald of Aurillac, Saints Januarius and

Lectures

TODAY British Museum: Won-dong Kim, "The Ceramic Heritage of Korea" 1.15pm. National Gallery: Mari Griffith, "Franciscans (ii): Zurbarán, Saint Francis in Meditation", 1pm.

Martial and St Maurice of Carnoet.

TOMORROW Tate Gallery: Laurence Bradbury, "Recurring Motils and Painted Vari-

1.31 - 2.32 773

of sexuality are the right approach to life after all. At such times, they said, they look for a friendly, helpful, safe person to put them back on the right track: and where better clergy now put themselves forward as counsellors, and my women had, between them, got through quite a few over the years. Their story is a bit different, however. Far from leaving a trail of innocent men "destroyed", they were themselves the victims, they said. Never good at judging men, they had failed to see the warning signs when fixing up with a clergy coun-

After a couple of sessions in the vicurage study, they found themselves ... involved. From there it was straight down the slippery slope: assignations, discovery, betrayal, rows, broken marriages, lost jobs. All of this could have been avoided, they said, if they had read the signs and seen what the man was really like. What were

An hysterical woman's guide to the clergy faith o reason

month: "This person is typically shallow, overly reactive, even vivacious, uninhib-Paul Handley, the editor of ited in displaying sexuality, given to flir-tations, coquetry and romantic fantasy the Church Times, this week ... The pastor who falls prey to her secomes to the rescue of the duction is bound to be destroyed." Just my women who fall in love with sort of gal, I thought. I sought a few out this week, for research purposes, and they priests and tells what songs gave me their own version of counselling these sirens hear.

> these warning signs? I asked. How long have you got? they replied.

Here then, is the (innocent) woman's nuide to dodgy counsellors. Leave quick-y... If the counsellor wears glasses (he's put them on to appear vulnerable or scholarly). If the counsellor does not wear glassto look than mother Church? Many of the es (he's taken them off to appear attractive). If the counsellor smiles too openly (clearly an attempt to have you lower your guard). If the counsellor smokes (orally suggestive, and, hell, you're the one who is supposed to be stressed and neryous). If the counsellor doesn't charge (this is a profession where financial greed is one of the purer motives). If your counsellor's car is a shiny red number with those flappy little eyelids over the headlamos (I mean, come on). If the counselling room has a large counselling couch (this may not be the best of omens, but is by itself inconclusive). If the couch has a wellstocked drinks cabinet beside it (now, that

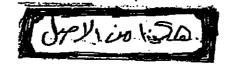
is conclusive).

If the counselling books on the shelf are all paperbacks from the 1970s. If the coun-

sellor asks you to "share your pain" (a swift kick is often the best way to do this). If the counsellor dresses in a prim, drab fash-ion (and is therefore repressed and in all probability secthing within). If the counsellor dresses casually (and is therefore someone who has lost all restraint). If, when you're telling your life-story, the counsellor dips into the box of hankies more often than you do (you don't need a counsellor, you need an agent). If there are signs of Tippex around the name on

the counsellor's accreditation certificate. If, when you mention your sex life, the counsellor sits up in his chair. If, when you mention your sex life, he sits down . . . in yours. If the counsellor invites you to meet at his home and comes to the door wearing a silk dressing-gown (this may be a prelude to more than a chat). If the counsellor comes to the door wearing a woolly dressing gown (same as above, only more

If the counsellor suggests a meeting in a public place to put you at your ease, and it turns out to be a dark wine bar with suggestive music and sexy waiters. If the waiters seem to know the counsellor well. If the counsellor has a manly chest (how come you can see his chest?). If the counsellor makes a lot of eye contact and you notice a diploma in hypnosis on the wall. If the only place to sit is a small settee, because "the chairs are away being reupholstered". If there's a whip and harness on the counselling room wall. If there isn't a whip and a harness (the counsellor is obviously extremely devious and has hidden them). If there's a whip and harness in the counsellor's hand. If the counsellor keeps jiggling a foot nervously.



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Both fighting fit ... but who will slip up?

o. we emerge from the party conference season, heading into a long that one party leader draws of his opponent. That said, Mr Major knows he is playing a drawn-out election campaign, with Tony Blair way ahead in the polls, but John Major winning the recent bout on points. Mr Blair had a good conference: his set-piece speech lifted hearts, giving delegates the sense that Labour is still a party of lofty ideals and that he is pursuing office to put traditional principles into modern action. But the man who comes second to the fight gets a lift from having seen his opponent spar; John Major niftily exploited the advantage. Bournemouth was expected to prove a rock and a hard place for the Tory high command, who could offer the Euro-sceptic rank and file little more than a formula for present prevarication. In the event, however, the platform clasped hands and won the

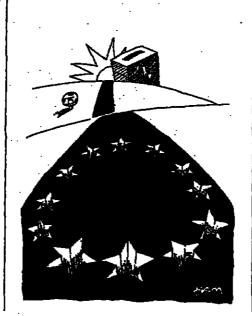
relieved applause of the party.

Earlier in the week Mr Major performed a neat trick by taking off his jacket and wowing them in the aisles. Yesterday he came across again as an unexcitable but confident Prime Minister, who compared his own at-ease posture with Mr Blair's faintly over-thetop messianic fervour the week before. By twanging the harp of his lower-middle-class background Mr Major manufactured a contrast with Mr Blair, presenting the Labour leader as remote and elitist. Of course we should absolutely distrust the caricature clever tune, because his party's polisters are finding some voters who don't like what they see as "smarm" in Mr Blair. Mr Blair, for his part, knows that his vulnerability centres on the degree to which voters trust him to be

what he says he is.
Voters insist that they are not affected by these well managed party conference ritu-als. The truth, though, is that the image of the parties and their leaders that emerges in commentary and news presentation from these conferences has a real effect on the public perception. In that way, the conferences matter.

They also provide the party faithful with a springboard feeling. On that level, both Labour and the Conservatives are in good order: they are both disciplined, ready and honed for battle. Underneath that smoothly veneered appearance, however, lie the risks

Take Labour. A large slice of its poll lead over the Tories is squishy. It is based more on discontent at the Tory record than popular affirmation of Labour values or visions. Perhaps old correlations between consumer confidence and support for the party in power are no longer as tight as they were; even so, it would be odd if the Tories picked nothing up from the burgeoning signs of eco-



nomic well-being. And Labour still lacks complete conviction in key areas - on education, for example, Mr Blair's call to comprehensive arms is undermined by his own and Harriet Harman's personal parental

The Tory cry of hypocrisy, however, car-ries little weight. Look at those frankly disgraceful passages in Mr Major's speech yes-terday when he tried at one and the same time to extol opportunity, enterprise and self-belp (as exemplified by the Brixton boy made good) and promise to cancel taxes on inherited wealth which represent the state's legitimate effort to level the playing field of life a little. A party genuinely interested in rewarding talent and effort would have no truck with grubby proposals to let suburban remiers give their children an even more generous start in life than they already get. It would be rum, too, if the public bought any of Mr Major's topsy-turvy claim that for-eigners all want to imitate our 1,000 years of "united" British history: Edward I built those castles in Wales for the benefit of tourists, presumably.

As for the pretence that the British Parliament is the free world's model - it would be laughable if it did not disclose how reluctant the Conservatives are to relinquish their rule within an electoral system which continues to reward a minority of voters with the

choice of government. Every single country that began with a simulacrum of the Westminster parliament has now moved to make its electoral arrangements fairer and the conduct of its legislative business more efficient; the way we govern ourselves is not a model, it is a glaring international example of bad practice.

The Conservatives rejuvenated themselves this week, but only inside the conference hall. Outside, as Polly Toynbee reported yesterday, implacable forces are waging war within the party over Europe. Bournemouth as viewed through the television camera lens was a Potemkin village. The Torics' tactic towards Sir James Goldsmith and his Referendum Party seems to be to ignore him in the hope that he will eventually fade away. He won't. His incubus is here for the

Bournemouth's slender basis for unity may be enough to see the Tories through to the polls. It may not. Unless Europe explodes underneath them, the fight with Labour will be close, and deserves to be. For all the allegations by world-weary commentators that the parties have become too much alike, we emerge from this past two weeks with real alternatives of policy and principles - with genuinely different visions of Britain that will now be placed before us. The ring is clear. Seconds away.

■ LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ■

Whitehall power behind the menace of organophosphates

Sir: There is only one safe way of dealing with organophosphates
(OPs) in agriculture: ban them
completely ("Tom King was victim of
Gulf-syndrome pesticide", 9 Oct). As
with resolving the BSE crisis, that will come about when the abominable power of the Ministry of Agriculture. Fisherics and Food (Maff) working ic ad-in-glove with agrochemical anufacturers, is broken.

UK farmers continue to use OP sheep dips as a routine prophylactic against sheep scab, despite mounting evidence of the health risks and repeated warnings by the OP. Information Network and Friends of the Earth (Scab Wars: the impacts of OP sheep dips on farmers, livestock and the environment, FoE 1993) They do so because Maff has made it clear that any outbreak of sheep scab is . likely to result in prosecution. Elsewhere, sheep are dipped only when there is an outbreak of scab or to prevent fly-strike.

The UK regulatory system is ineffective and riddled with serious conflicts of interest. In this area, as in so many others, Maff behaves as if its sole public duty is to increase food production at all costs. Yet, it is also responsible for licensing sheep dips (jointly with the Department of Health) and oversceing their use. All dips are approved on the basis of assessments made within Maff. In turn, these assessments depend on data submitted by the manufacturers. his data is deemed "commercially confidential", and is not released publicly nor subject to independent review. Two of the main OPs (chlorfenvinophos and propetamphos) used in dips have never been subject to a full evaluation of their human health or

environmental impacts by Maff. OP threats are not confined to sheep dips. Maff now recommends that the public should top and peel. all carrots before eating because unexpectedly high residues of five different and acutely toxic OPs, used to combat carrot fly, have been

discovered in sample testing. Over half the carrot crop in the UK receives three OP treatments a year; although up to nine applications were reported in 1994. Some 1-2 per cent of carrots tested contained OP residues up to 25 times higher than expected. Most British carrots are grown in intensive monocultures in Lincolnshire and Norfolk. Carrot fly is now endemic in these regions. The Government's own Advisory Committee on Pesticides recently reported that in

order for UK growers to produce carrot crops to the standard required by the major retail outlets, the use of multiple applications for the control

of carrot fly is considered essential*.

As farmers besieged the
Conservative Party Conference on
Monday, loudly complaining of the
Maff's handling of the BSE crisis, and with the memories of other agriculture scandals from the veal trade to salmonella in eggs still fresh in our minds, surely politicians from all parties will now wake up to the fact that something is badly and endemically wrong with British agriculture?

The alternatives - whole-hearted support for organic farming and gemine integrated pest managemen systems, with agrochemicals used as a last resort - are known, proven, safe and affordable. Such best practices won't arrive magically, but when politicians are pressured to change the regulations and subsidies which drive increasingly intensive and unnatural farming methods. That job is up to consumers, farmers and environmentalists working together. What better time to start than in the run-up to the general election anyone interested? CHARLES SECRETT

Friends of the Earth

Sir: The evidence is staring us in the face: organophosphates have in the last two years been associated with: Gulf war syndrome, mad cow disease (BSE), scrapie, and CJD.

The only other country in Europe

that uses high doses of organophosphates for pest control of their cows is Switzerland, and they also have serious problems with BSE.

Organophosphates are very dangerous chemicals, related to mustard gas. They are termed "safe" for use on crops and animals because they break down "fast" in the environment. However a recent investigation by one of my students on his family farm has shown that much higher quantities of organophosphates enter surface and

groundwaters than we thought before What I would like to know is whether we are more at risk of CID from drinking water, eating carrots, eating bread, or eating beef? Am 1 poisoning my children when I presen them with a "well balanced" dinner? Dr K VALA RAGNARSDOTTIR Lecturer in Environmental Geochemistry
University of Bristol



Aid is the business of charities

Sir: William Shawcross's provocative argument ("Never mind Oxfam, DHL can deliver", 10 October), that humanitarian aid could be entirely contracted to private companies, doing away with charities, starts from a faise assumption: that aid is simply matter of getting things to people.

It is not First, there is the question of what is needed. In emergencies which involve a wholesale breakdown of society, this requires careful judgement. The wrong commodity. or the right one wrongly applied, can kill. The process of assessment of what is needed, and of ordering. distributing and monitoring those goods, must be under the control of experienced agencies with staff proficient in administering social care in the local context. That is what

aid agencies are for. Second, aid is not delivered in a vacuum. The need arises from complex political, military, economic and social crises. Aid is an intervention in a distorted political economy. If that context is not analysed and understood by agencies with experience, aid will have all kinds of unintended effects. It can fuel war economies, destroy local production and contribute to the set-stripping of the poor by people with power and influence.

Third, even in emergencies aid should be used with a development perspective. In south Sudan, for

instance, instead of flooding the war zone with food aid every dry season, Oxfam and others have supported communities to build up their own food security, distributing seeds and tools and fishing equipment which will reduce their long-term vulnerability. And when we do make

use of private contractors - to dig a

well, improve a road, provide textiles

to make clothing - we usually support

the local economy by sourcing the

contract in the region.

Agencies working with the victims of conflict have a responsibility to advocate on their behalf among the governments and multilateral institutions who can affect their fate something one can hardly imagine Evian or American Express doing.

Certainly the aid sector must become more efficient and effective and there is plenty of room for selfcriticism. The more responsible British agencies are at the forefront of this critical thinking. Oxfam, Save the Children, the International Federation of the Red Cross, the World Council of Churches and others have established an international code of conduct. The same group is now leading a followup effort to establish recognised standards for the delivery of DAVID BRYER

Oxfam Oxford

How dangerous are old trees?

Sir: Reading Stephen Goodwin's article on the Lake District National Park's plan to fell the Rusland beeches (7 October) I am driven to wonder how much "expert" opinion is based on scientific analysis, and how much on traditional prejudice against supposedly decaying trees.

The beeches, we are told, are in a 'dangerous" condition. Has this danger been quantified? Certainly an old tree might shed a branch, but the statistical chance of it doing so at the very moment someone is passing under the very spot the branch falls must be remote in the extreme. Have the park authorities a mathematical estimate of the chances of it

Is it feared that a whole tree might topple over? Again, even if one did, the chance of it hitting someone as it fell must be very small, especially compared with the many small everyday risks we are all compelled to

Old, decaying, trees don't fall over, they just continue decaying away, over decades, to a bare trunk that rots on the spot. Trees that blow over in storms are almost invariably ones that showed no prior signs of age or weakness, as many people in the South-east will recall from the 1986 CPADLEY

Market Rasen, Lincolnshire

Fine judgement

Sir: The elevation of a judge to the office of Lord Chief Justice is by selection, not an election ("Senior judges round on the Tories", 9 October). The Prime Minister and Lord Chancellor must select whom they consider the right judge for the

What would the press say if it was by election? "14 old codgers elect one of their own to top job". The views of 14 Lord Justices of Appeal are as relevant, constitutionally, is my own. ARNOLD ROSEN Arnold Rosen and Co. solicitors London WI

Railroaded

Sir: Just as Tony Blair had got us all wondering why the Labour Party ever existed, Ian Lang, with his proposals to remove immunity from trade unions who go on strike (report, 10 October) has reminded us. The Taff Vale Railway Company no longer exists but people who want to make the trains run on time at any cost to liberty and democracy are still with

TOM MOTTERSHEAD

Weaker sex

Sir: Although health campaigns such as your Breast Awareness supplement of 8 October are nearly always directed at women, men on average die younger. The factors in this reduced life expectancy are mainly social and environmental, and therefore also highly preventable. You would expect to see issues affecting men's health aired more prominently. ALASTAIR McGOWAN

Alien alert

Sir: Unlike Ms Tatham (letter, 3 October) the first culture shock I encountered on entering the United States was not the "women" signs on lavatory doors but the "VISITING ALIENS" sign above passport CONTROL

RACHEL LODGE

LETTER from THE EDITOR

Tory conference at Bournemouth and bright autumn me back. Ten years ago, as a junior political reporter, I was one of The Independent's team on day one. Tony Bevins, our political editor, had been plotting ways of getting his team on to the front page of the first issue. Late in the day, he noticed that I had failed to make it. brusquely ordered me to go to a press conference, and got my work piggy-backed onto a real story written by Sarah Hogg my least distinguished act of

Afterwards, we drank deeply and celebrated over pasta. thinking enviously of the real party back at the Indie's headquarters in London. This year, the political team were there again -drunk, no doubt - while the rest of us had a party at the Victoria and Albert museum, sipping mineral water and being high-minded at one

another. (Well, ish.)

I'd like to thank all of you who sent us so many generous few days ago, I wrote that our things, stroppy. Brilliant foresight: the next morning there was a letter from a reader complaining that he hated our news coverage, loathed our front pages, particularly disliked our foreign coverage, was outraged by the comment pages, disgusted by the sport and busi-ness, abhorred the cartoons ... He added that he was beginning to wonder whether he was entirely happy with the paper. Sir. don't wonder: you are clearly an Independent reader to your core.

Wedged in a tip-up seat in the hated Press pen at Bournemouth, as the Prime Minister did his genuinely good question-and-answer session for Tory activists, I was reminded again of John Major's almost obsessional hatred of "snobbery". There was, as it happens, an excellent example of what he meant deriving from this week's Spec-tator magazine, which included a diary by Major. It seemed to me well-written and conveyed a genuine flavour of his life,

mocking some of the rituals of European summits, and with the odd flourish of waspish wil.

But it is, of course, dangerous territory, since Private Eye's rival "Diary of John Major" helped fix the man in the eyes of the nation as a hopelessly Pooterish innocent. It was predictable, then, that Major's real diary was duly described as "almost identical" to the spoof (Express) and Pooterish elsewhere - the Daily Telegraph headlined it "Diary of a Somebody".

Here was a classic example of the snobbery that so enrages him. But he protests too much. journalism and my proudest All political leaders in this

> All political leaders are caricatured -Tony Blair's reputation is being marinated in pesto and balsamic vinegar all the time,

> > to Major's glee

typical reader was, among other country are lampooned and caricatured - Tony Blair's reputation is being marinated in pesto and balsamic vinegar all the time, to Major's evident glee. Indeed, I think it is probably unconstitutional for the press not to lampoon politicians. These days, politicians across the world are starting to use their life-histories as mar-keting tools - "buy me, I had a tough childhood". It is demeaning, and I don't suppose many of us are affected by it. But if politicians play that personality game, they can hardly complain about being mocked.

> Our coverage of the Tories' week has been generally quite favourable. This has greatly irritated some senior Labour people, who ask if we are "changing sides". I can reassure them. The answer is no. We weren't signed up to Labour before, and we aren't on Major's side now. We reported that the Tory conference went well because it did. This is called journalism.

> > Andrew Marr

All will be revealed at Trust meeting

Sir: I have read the letters from Mrs Webb (7 October) and Mr Theakstone (9 October), following the letter from Lord Kitchener and John Wilks (3 October) with interest and some dismay. I know that both Mrs Webb and Mr Theakstone are longstanding and loval members of the National Trust, which makes it all the more sad that the impression which they have of the Trust is misinformed in almost every way. Clearly the way in which we represent ourselves to at least some of our members needs to be improved.

It would take much too long to answer in this letter all the points made by Mrs Webb and Mr Theakstone but I hope that they might beable to attend our annual general explain to them what the Trust is really like nowadays. Lord Kitchener and Dr Wilks will no doubt be there too, to present their resolution. CHARLES NUNNELEY Chairman, The National Trust London SWT

Why the Dutch did not fight at Srebrenica

Sir: In Robert Fisk's article "The damning truth written on the pages of Document No 3206" (October 8) a United Nations order issued by the acting commander of Unprofor on 11 July 1995 to the Dutch UN commander in the Srebrenica enclave is presented as a new fact.
The decision of the Dutch commander not to execute this order is presented as quite shameful.

However, Mr Fisk's interpretation is completely beside the facts.

The document "revealed" by Mr Fisk was made public by the Netherlands Ministry of Defence a year ago in the official report on Srebrenica, based on an extensive briefing of Dutch UN personnel. In this report, which was widely distributed and translated into English, and in response to parliamentary questions, the UN order was described in full detail.

The reasons why the order could not be implemented by the Dutch

UN commander were also given. His military assessment of the situation, hours after the fall of Srebrenica itself, was that defending the military compound i Potocari would provoke heavy shelling by the Bosnian Serb army, which had completely surrounded this compound, in which Dutchbatt and thousands of refugees were present. This would have certainly meant a very high number of casualties, especially among the

It is important to note that this assessment was shared by Sector North East of Unprofor, which communicated its views to Unprofor headquarters. HANS van der HEUVEL Director of Information Ministry of Defence The Hague Netherlands

Politicians bet their shirts on victory

Sir: As with many recent developments in UK politics, John Major's exposure of his shirt sleeves i an import from the United States ("Showing his shirt is Major's way of baring his soul", 11 October).

The tactic dates from the 1988 presidential campaign between George Bush and Michael Dukakis. Trailing badly in the polls in the final week, the aloof and unworldly Democratic candidate took off his iacket and rolled up his sleeves to symbolise "getting down to business" and even "spoiling for a

fight". The media were mightily impressed, and wrote at length about this powerful subliminal message that he was "fighting back". The polls, however, didn't move and Dukakis lost heavily. BEN RICH London EC4

Letters should be addressed to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL (Face 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.nk) and include a daytime telephone number.

Letters may be edited for length and clarity. We regret we are unable to acknowledge unpublished letters.

QUOTE UNQUOTE

I like being in love. There's no other reason for being on Earth. It's the only time you're not in control - Adam Faith, veteran

You cannot lead from a position of saying: "I have not made up my mind" - Lord Tebbit on the European single currency issue I have never said I don't want to be Prime Minister - Peter Lilley, Social Security Secretary

I have nothing personal against Michael Howard. For, as St Augustine once said, we must bate the sin and love the sinner --Lord Longford

The obsession of journalists with the search for splits and conflict means that politicians cannot speak without the risk of being misrepresented - Clare Short, Labour MP

There is no point in being at the heart of Europe if the heart is diseased - Norman Lamont, former Chancellor

Given a choice between dinner with Norma or 15 men, Norma won hands down - John Major, explaining that he left the Dublin Euro-summit early last weekend because it was their wedding anniversary Hands up, those who think I'm going to tell you what's in the Budget! - John Major, in a question session at the Tory party conference in Bournemouth

The picturepostcard Utopia that is haven for the rich revealed its uglier side this week: snobbish, meanminded, selfish, hypocritical. **Peter Popham** journeyed to a corner of England caught in a time warp: Surrey



Lauric Briggs, aged 13, was bauned from a family golf competition in a Surrey club because he was adopted

Photograph: Chris Laurens

Down the A3 to the Middle Ages

where the inhabithan elsewhere in Britain, where they earn more money, live in more splendid houses, drive more and bigger cars, enjoy more beautiful scenery. It is the lucky county. a little bit of California on the River Wey. It's called Surrey. It's also the county where this week 13-year-old Laurie Briggs was banned from a "families" golf competition because he was an adopted child.

southern England's picturepostcard charm. But it is also the incubator of all southern England's nastiest little ways, as the Briggs story exemplified: snobbish, mean-minded, selfish, hypocritical.

In case anyone has forgotten. the story went like this; at Burhill Golf Club, near Waltonon-Thames in one of the choicest parts of the county. Laurie, Brazilian by birth, had already progressed to the third round when another member complained that he was ineligible to

here is a corner of play in the competition, and he was duly disqualified. Only after a vast hullabaloo in the media - including the sort of papers which enjoy big Surrey circulations - was the ban reversed. For petty unpleasantness it was

a tale that took some beating. Surrey looks backwards to a past that is too pretty and perfeet ever to have been true, and forwards to a future of everincreasing privilege, everincreasing disparity between the folks on the hill and the proles in the Kwik-Save. Surrey holds up a mirror to the aspithe late Nineties. Look into it and squirm.

The county is, of course, one of the truest blue corners of the country, and the present clutch of MPs provides some useful clues to the Surrey breed.

Lady Olga Maitland, who represents Sutton and Cheam on the northern border of the county, is a Surrey person pushed to the point of parody. with her shrill hounding of criminals and scroungers; she is also a real toff, which may explain why Sutton and Cheam

self to at least 20 other constituencies before).

Kenneth Baker, the smarmiest man in the House, with his prim vowels and his unctuous grin, is a fair representative of the species: the head-girlishness of Virginia Bottomicy captures another aspect of the Surrey

done most to draw attention to the county over the past 25 larly hard kind of snobbery." years are rock stars. A form of says a local teacher who comlife less compatible with the mutes every day from London. s band to imagine: yet a succession of millionaire rockers has settled here, including various Beatles, Eric Clapton, sundry members of Status Quo, Roxy Music and 10CC. And while they may still wear funny clothes and even pick up a guitar once in a while. it's a fair guess that Surrey changed them more than they

changed Surrey. They became part of the scene. When one Surrey property developer prominent in the Sixties, who has spent his wealth sedulously turning him-

took her to its aspiring bosom (she had failed to endear herself into a Surrey squire, staged debourne for the diversion of the locals out Cobham way, in what they like to call High Sur-

rey, Clapton himself turned up to play a set by the lake. That is life among Surrey's immortals. The downside for ordinary people living amidst such a landscape of achievement is the social neurosis that

Yet the people who have pervades the county's life.

recently moved to the county took her child along to a playgroup, and was dismayed when she got a rather cold reception. It was quietly pointed out to her that there was another play-group it might be more suitable for her child to join. Socially the two were practically indistinguishable. She was baffled, Then e discovered that she came

from the wrong side of the road. "People in Surrey are very aware of their position on the ladder. They say things like, 'Addlestone [a relatively poor

village] is where you live while you're waiting to move on to Weybridge'.'

The most vital ingredient of Surrey's appeal is its distinctness from London. Driving southwest towards Guildford on the A3, one quite suddenly emerges from the long shape-less expanse of Tudorbethan suburbs; and this is one of southern England's most brilliant effects, because suddenly you have arrived back in the Middle Ages, before the clearing of the forests.

a few miles out of Europe's biggest and the city. ancient deciduous woodland stretches in wave after wave to the horizon, broken only (it seems) by this fast, sinuous road.

This is is the most complete of Surrey's deceptions, the most successful of its lies. We are not in real countryside, but green belt. Surrey has little true country: farmers constitute 0.8 per cent of the county workforce half the national average.

Over huge swathes of Surrey, the gorgeous green cover is densely infested with commut-

But it is certainly beautiful. And at about the same moment that the scenery dramatically improves, the rain clouds flee away and the sun comes out I left London in a dank drizzle, and arrived in Cobham on a vely autumn day.
I mentioned this fact to the

cottish woman serving me in Cobham's book shop. Her face flushed with complacent pride. Och, that's what it's like down always seems to turn out nice in these parts!

That's the way it seems to these lucky people: a vista of permanent niceness. But those who have scaled the ladder of wealth emerge beyond the clouds into the realms of the awesome. This culminates, for the seriously rich, in a mansion in the guarded, gated estate of St George's Hill, on the outskirts of Weybridge and Waltonon-Thames, which is claimed to be the most exclusive and

expensive estate in the country.

The smallest houses here cost £600.000, and the grandest

mansions several million.

One cannot simply walk around St George's Hill at will. On the other private estates around these towns, which are numerous, zealously imple-mented Neighbourhood Watch schemes mean that any outsider gets a frank stare if he ventures to wander around. At St George's Hill, however, you don't even get past the front gate without a good reason. So I decided to start shopping around for a half-million pound

was happy to give me a tour. The estate is so large that it contains a full-sized golf course, which runs through the middle of it. Like much of wealthy Surrey, the estate inhabits a strange, idealised rich man's past, where the trees are deciduous and mature, the architecture is vaguely (but imposingly) Queen-Anne or Georgian, but the Bentleys are the latest model, the fabric of the house is likewise brand new, and the subsidiary entrances to the

upon a Weybridge estate agent

estate are guarded by closedcircuit television. The mansions have grand names like Somerton House or Edgeworth; elderly ladies in tweed exercise small dogs along the meandering, deserted lanes in the shade of the big trees.

Time has stopped here at point between the 1820s and the 1920s. Many of the newest houses are so huge they must have numerous staff. One imagines them touching their forelocks and living Downstairs.

The rich irony of St George's Hill is that, distinct from the fake past in which it is engrossed, it has a real histor which speaks of an utterly different English tradition.

In 1649, after the Civil War, a labourer called Gerrard Winstanley, who herded cows in Walton-on-Thames, had a vision in which he was instructed to publish it abroad that "the earth should be made a common treasury of livelihood to whole mankind, without respect of persons". It was a vision of communist utopia, and on 1 April that year, Win-stanley and up to 100 followers invaded St George's Hill and began to dig the land, insisting by their actions that the land belonged to everyone. They were called the Diggers: the community they instigated here lasted a year before it was finally put to flight.

The action of the Diggers was the high point of the English revolution that never happened. Winstanley was its prophet. "In the beginning of time," he wrote, "the great creator. Reason, made the earth to be a common treasury ...

selfish imaginations

set up one man to teach and rule over another. And thereby ... man was brought into bondage ... And hereupon the earth ... was hedged into enclosures ... And that earth that is within this creation made a common storehouse for all, is bought and sold and kept in the great Creator is mightily dishonoured, as if he were a respecter of persons, delighting in the comfortable livelihood of some and rejoicing in the miserable poverty and straits of others. From the beginning it

Winstanley's revolution was not merely put to flight: here on St George's Hill its utter opposite has been erected. If Winstanley's ghost were to wander these shady lanes, you would surely know it by the sound of uncontrollable weeping.

was not so ...

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jo brand's week

Like comedy, political life contains very few women, even though women are gaining more than a foothold in other areas of work. In comedy, I think it is a confidence problem. Plenty of women try it, but many give up, because they find difficult audiences more damaging to their self-esteem. Blokes, on the whole, tend to have more confidence, or at least appear to. They're dead good at seeming to have things under control, which is half the battle.

I suppose politics is similar to comedy in several ways. You get a bit of a verbal mauling in the press, some heckling, and you are called upon to talk a fair bit of rubbish under pressure. So what's putting women off politics? Well, it could be the way in which women politicians continue to be scrutinised purely visually by a section of the press; the hours are difficult for women with families; and the House of Commons is like a boy's club at which bickering and point-scoring reign supreme. I suspect, however, that a fair few women might have been put off by some female role models and not least Gruppenfuhrer Thatcher. Back this week at the Tory party conference, as humourless and rigid as ever. I expect many women think that if this is the prototype, maybe it's not worth bothering.

Eileen Heseltine, mother of Mick, wants children to be soundly thrashed, following an incident in which a friend of hers was hit with a stone thrown by some kids from the local council estate. Much as I sympathise with the poor woman, I would surmise that perhaps the kids throwing the stones have already had several sound thrashings and maybe that is why they are behaving like this. I wonder whether young Mick got leathered or not. It may explain a few things.

"What are you doing for Christmas?" I was asked today. I have absolutely no idea, apart from apparently being encouraged not to have a flu jab and agonising about which record is going to be number one on Jesus's birthday. Young and healthy people, according to the Chief Medical Officer, should not have a jab because there are only six million available and they should be reserved for vulnerable people. Why don't they provide enough for everyone? Money, of course. So, all you big girls' blouses out there who can really cope with a bit of shivering, sweating and looking like a menopausal cod for a week, lay off the jabs. At least you can lie in bed and listen to the usual charming

selection of aural seasonal offerings,

from Spice Girls to the cast of Emmerdale. On second thoughts, go and get a flu jab.

You might be surprised to learn that I've never been a fan of Miss World, and it seems I am not alone. Some people feel the same in India, where the hallowed contest will burst into the swimsuited-cleavaged-I-wantworld-peace glory we all know and largely ignore. However, in India, one group has threatened to set the venue alight and another slightly more committed mob have said that one of their group will commit suicide on each of the 17 days leading up to the contest. What dedication. Puls our protests in the shade.

It's remarkably pleasurable to see the underdog win. I was in Soho the other day and a lorry which picks up cars and takes them to the car pound was blocking our way. The man on the machinery was nearly finished with his job and a small crowd had gathered to watch. (And I bet you always thought Soho was a really exciting place.) He had attached wires to the wheels and began to haul the car up. As it rose to about two feet off the ground, a man appeared from nowhere, sorinted towards the car.

opened the door and dived in. At this

point, the towaway man, thinking he would have a bit of fun, hoisted the car up another couple of feet and then jiggled it about a bit. Everyone was laughing, including a traffic warden standing by. Eventually, our hero was lowered rather roughly to the ground. He turned the ignition on immediately and sped away in a cloud of exhaust to an enthusiastic round of applause. Like life, though, it wasn't all great. The warden had just managed to slap a ticket on the car. No wonder he looked so cheerful.

The winner of a poll to find the nation's favourite post-war poem has been announced, and it is a piece about growing old disgracefully by Jenny Joseph. It is all about how, when the writer grows old, she will behave very badly, look ridiculous and please herself. It is reassuring to know that so many people like this poem, but confusing when you think how many older people eschew a life of wildness for bine perms, crimplene and endless bingo. Still, if an entire generation gets into its eighties and starts wearing purple and spending the pension on brandy, there are going to be some great parties.

I can't help thinking that the company that makes Wonderbras and the Breakthrough Breast Cancer charity are strange bedfellows. The Wonderbra advertising campaign has,

after all, been based entirely on the assumption that if you don't have two flawless Zeppelins down your blouse that arrive several seconds before you do, then life ain't worth a thing. This country's mammary fixation has led many women to believe that losing one of these assets is the end of the world. Still, in this day and age. I suppose that any money is welcomed by charities, wherever it may be from.

I often wondered if my name would ever make it to hurricane status and I was rewarded this week by the discovery that Harricane Josephine was sweeping across the Gulf of Mexico. Hurricanes are quite predictable these days, due to the improved science of meteorology. In the old days, the only way you could tell if one was coming was to lick your finger and bold it up.

So when will Hurricane Josephine strike? Not tonight, possibly.

According to Sarah Biffen, wives of Cabinet ministers have had enough. So has the rest of the country, madam. Her main complaints are that her husband is always tired ... a positive advantage, I would have thought, in the case of some of the more unsavoury geezers in the Cabinet. Sarah Biffen's other complaint is that Cabinet wives are sick of going to state banquets. Apparently, the novelty wears off very quickly, and these poor women sound as though they believe that being grumpily forced to shove yet another morsel of expensive posh people's food down their throats is a fate

worse than death. Well. I am sure there are plenty people in this country who haven't had a meal like this ever, who would be only too willing to fill in for them or indeed till them in, on the basis of that complaint. Moaning about this sort of privilege is not much of a vote catcher. I would have thought.

Culashe

regional variations

used to think

things we have

in common are greater

than the things

that divide us

aaronovitch

t won't be long now before an incoming Labour administration red eyes gleaming, begins its malign job of breaking up the United Kingdom. I know this because I have been all week with the Tories in

Bournemouth, and they told me about it. First Labour will give the Scots a parliament and the Welsh an assembly The Scots parliament will fall out with Westminster and demand independence, and the sons of Cymru will follow suit. London will clamour for self-governance, Yorkshire will secede, Cornwall will demand enosis with Brittany.

On the face of it, this is a dreadful prospect. Are not the things we have in common (language, culture, hatred of Michael Howard, self-pity) greater than the things which divide us? I thought so until Thursday, when this newspaper carried a report on Family Spending (Stationery Office, £35.95). What this volume reveals has shattered my easy assump-tions about our shared charmacteristics.

It is not so much the "what". This indicates that there are great differences in the way that the inhabitants of the various regions and nations of this, our island home, spend their money: 83 per cent of West Midlanders have video recorders, compared with an average of 79

per cent. Yes? And? It's the why that matters. What explains, for instance, spend vastly more on "outer garments" than anyone else? Why do those from Devon and Corawall favour pets so much more and fizzy drinks so much less than their compatriots in other parts? How come that Yorkshire folk top the washing machine league but have fewer tumble dryers than the rest of us? Does this tell us something rather fun-

behaviour? Let us take these examples in turn. It cannot be true that the Ulster outer garment orgy is attributable to climate alone. The Scottish weather is arguably more inclement for more of the year. Are the

damental about identity and

daughters of the province somehow less careful with their coats, always leaving them on the Giant's Cause way or something? Personally, I think it is down to chronic church attendance and the desire to look good in front of the priest, vicar and

What about the pet lovers of the West Country? I am taken with an image of a stout Devonian entering a sweet shop, examining the cans of Coke and Sprite, and saying, "Sod it, I'll have a cat instead". Does Fanta taste bad in Taunton, or fur feel softer? A better explanation might lie in the well-ordered bungalows of the English Riv iera, whose elderly inhabitants are more likely to find Lucozade giving them wind, and Tiddles giving them com-

panionship. Yorkshire's washing habits. I must confess, are a bigger problem to solve. A desire not to waste electricity cannot be the explanation for the aversion to tumble dryers; if it were, then Yorkshire folk would be less keen on wash-

ing machines. Is it because the wind to rain ratio is uniquely favourable, allowing clothes to be better dried in the open? Or is it a combination of large gardens and tiny houses that leads to this, an inheritance from Yorkshire's mining past, perhaps?

The one that I am not prepared to speculate about is the statistic showing that the Welsh spend less on cosmetics and hair products. My inist north of part of a vast extended family, and always look as though they have invested more than adequately in cleansing products.

Given these disparities, and the psychologies that lie behind them, the question must at least be asked whether the attempt to hold together these various different parts is as doomed to failure as is European federalism, as was the Soviet empire, and as will be the United States of America. Cards on the table: I, for one, do not really want to live in a society that loves pets, hates tumble dryers and can't look after its

A game of two halves: the rich and the poor

لفكذا من الأعل

By Steve Boggan



Football is big business. When Manchester United chairman Martin Edwards said he might consider selling the club, he hinted that bidding should start at £400m'

market value in the region of £670m.

"Large investors have been waiting in the wings to see what happens with football, but now they are coming in and buy-ing, said Victoria Wearing, assistant director of the Share Centre, a telephone trading service. "They used to be frightened off by the volatility of share prices because of onthe-pitch results, whereas now

In the past, results on the pitch could lead to wild fluctuations in the share prices there is more stability because of the six quoted clubs - Manof the off-the-pitch business." chester Utd, Tottenham Hot-And it isn't only the big spur, Celtic, Chelsea, Preston City types who are buying. North End and Millwall. Small investors, too, are grabbing a piece of their favourite club. Since the Share Centre These, with Leeds Utd, whose owners, Caspian, are stockmarket listed, have a total set up its football investors' ser- the story. Across the four divi-

woken up by your Manchester United

alarm clock (£10),

and you peer from beneath your Manchester Utd

duvet (£30) at your bedroom wall, papered, of course, in ster Utd colours (£7

a roll). Switching on your Manchester Utd lamp (£17), you go into the bathroom,

wash and dry off with your Manchester Utd towel (£10) ...

and so on, until you turn in for the night and take off your

Manchester United sports

This is modern day football.

Gone are the days when you picked up your scarf and your rattle and headed for the

ground to claim your usual

square foot of the terraces for

about a fiver. Today, you are more likely to wear your £40

replica shirt and head for your

Football is big business.
Yesterday, when Manchester
United chairman Martin
Edwards said he might consider selling the club if the

price were right, he hinted that bidding should start at £400m.

And there appears to be no

lish football grounds imposed after the publication of the

Taylor report into the 1989 Hillsborough disaster were

the catalyst that began chang-ing the face of the national

sport. Making stadiums all-seater not only improved the

game's image, but it also made

clubs treat supporters like

customers and not simply as

Then, more importantly,

came the formation of the

Premier League and the injec-

tion of hundreds of millions of

pounds — £670m for the next

four seasons alone - from

BSkyB in return for exclusive

rights to broadcast live games. Football has been dragged into

With the money came the

big-name players from abroad,

increased attendances - up 33 per cent in 10 years - and a

huge growth in sales of club

alone shifts more than £20m

worth of branded goods, from

mugs to its own lager. Across all 92 clubs, the figure runs

into hundreds of millions of

Crucially, it is this money,

together with catering and

conference incomes, that

now has City investors circling

for the first time.

terrace fodder.

the satellite age.

pounds.

The improvements in Eng-

shortage of takers.

£25 seat in the stands.

watch (£25).

vice last February, sales have increased by 700 per cent.

So, all the Premiership clubs are now rich, right? Wrong. Last season, the downside of the big time began to bite. In the search for more success, bigger crowds, higher television fees and a greater income from merchandising - the upwards spiral achieved by Manchester Utd - clubs were forced to spend more than

ever before on players. Between them, the 92 Premier and Football League clubs spent £110m on transfer fees - a record. More than £30m went to buy foreign players. But that wasn't the end of

packet of £243m. And in the Premier League, wages increased by 22 per cent. Some Premiership players - like the £15m Newcastle striker Alan Shearer - can command wages in excess of £20,000 a week.

sions, the wages bill raced

ahead of inflation, rising by 14

Transfer fees and higher wages forced many clubs even some in the Premiership - into the red. Across the board, English clubs made a

pre-tax loss of £14.1m from a total income of £468m. Even Everton, one of the richest clubs in the country, fell £9.4m into the red after

splashing out £12.7m on play-

per cent to create a total pay cent of clubs in the First, Second and Third Divisions made a profit. The future for them looks grim as the Premier League continues to increase its share of all football income. "It may well be that clubs in the lower divisions have to

ers. And it's tougher still in the

lower divisions. Only 20 per

go semi-professional and, at some point in the future, they may form regional leagues."

said Jason Hargaden of Deloitte & Touche, "But even the Premiership clubs are divided between the big clubs like Manchester Utd, Liverpool, Spurs, Everton and Arsenal, who have big crowds and lots of supporters, and the others who are struggling to

keep up."
So what does the future hold? Where will the drive for profit drag the English game? Onwards and upwards, say the optimists. Into a financial mire,

say the cynics.

The next big development will be pay-per-view channels owned by the clubs. You may no longer be able to take your son to the game - if you did, you wouldn't get much change out of £60 - but, with the expansion of cable and fibre optic technology, you will be able to have games beamed into your home live on a Saturday afternoon. At between £5 and £10 a game to view, the clubs stand to make a fortune.

After that, at some point in the next century, the experts predict that the superclubs' insatiable appetite for more money and more glamour will lead to the formation of a Euro-league. When that happens, the future for the likes of Grimsby doesn't look promising. And, unless you have deep pockets or regular access to the world of corporate entertaining, you can forget going

to away matches. The fans, those who remember standing for a fiver in the pouring rain, will again be the ones who lose out. The games will be televised - probably pay-per-view – and gate prices, which have already risen by 300 per cent in the past 10 years. will go up further.

Clubs have never treated fans well." said David Blatt of the Football Supporters Association. "But now they are taking advantage. Among football fans, there is a brand loyalty that Coca-Cola would kill for. Your team can lose, you can be given lousy seating, blocked views, poor toilets and dreadful catering facilities but you will still go back because it is vour team.

"Now that they have improved conditions, they are taking advantage by hiking up gate prices and worrying more about corporate hospitality than true supporters getting in to see their heroes.

"They exploit fans' loyalty and they'll carry on exploiting it because they know they can. They know it goes way beyond rational behaviour. It's true love."

The Lady's not for learning

s Margaret Thatcher A quietly celebrates her.
71st birthday tomorrow, the rejoicing could be marred by a small shadow. After 11 years in office, and more than five years after John

Major succeeded her at Number 10, Baroness Thatcher has come to a rather grim conclusion - that all is not as rosy as Tory Cabinet ministers might have had us believe in Bournemouth this week. The woman who once sug-pested that there was no such

thing as society - as opposed to the families and individuals who thrived, or merely survived, within it - made a very sombre speech last month. She told the Institute of United States Studies, in Lon-

don: "Liberty decays in an atmosphere where all is permitted and nothing is prohibited. The resulting permissive society is in fact no society at all." Savour the words; let them

marinate the mind. Soak them in and feel the bile rise. But, as you might expect of Lady Thatcher, there is more where that came from. She never did anything by halves.

We have witnessed a coarsening of everything from art 10 music to literature to film. But for some people, there seems to be nothing beyond the pale - for hem, freedom has no limits

"The younger generation is being reared in a morally corrosive atmosphere where they are taught that anything gocs. There is no elevation of the human spirit in works designed



Her regime was built on the use of ruthless: freedoms, so

just who is Baroness Thatcher to complain about the

'resulting permissive society', asks

Anthony Bevins

merely to shock or to appeal only to our most base instincts." Coming from the woman who used to pretend that some of her own Government's biggest blunders had nothing to do with her, but were always the fault of people who had kept her in the dark, this balderdash should not surprise us.

But it is curious that she limits the "coarsening of every-thing" to the world of art and culture. Why not politics, too? If freedom has no limits, might she not bear some responsibility for that? ··· After all, was not Thatcherism characterised by the

unbridled use of power - power without limits - to beat up and beat down the perceived enemy within? If anything goes, where did that come from? Who was it

that appealed to "our most base instincts" - the moneygrubbing, devil-take-the-hindmost culture in which the shopdoorway homeless and the privatised utility "fat cats" emerged as abiding monuments to Thatcherism? What a cheek, what gall.

what brass neck. For Thatcher of all people to turn round and wonder where all this came from is too much. But it has to be remembered that Lady Thatcher actually believed the myth that was

spun by her acolytes. Recently asked to identify John Major's greatest achievement, one of his closest Cabinet ailies, Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, said: "Building

That rather begged the question - yes, but just what were her great achievements? "Margaret Thatcher's great achievement," according to Lang, "was to start the modernisation of Britain, to liberate the enterprise of the British people, to remove the dead hand of the state, and to give freedom its

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, put it rather more reflectively - and accurately - in his Centre for Policy Studies lecture in Bournemouth on Thurs-

day night.
"We have restored our national self-confidence," he said. "In the early years of this Conservative Government we achieved that by showing iron resolve over the Falkland Islands abroad and in banishing the British disease at home, cul minating in the government being prepared to face up to, and in the end face down, the

year-long miners' strike." It is curious that a man who appears as civilised as Mr Rifkind, an Edinburgh lawyer of moderate Tory tendencies, should volunteer a link between the Falklands and the miners'

For some of those who were closest to Margaret Thatcher in the early years - those who created Thatcherism before she even knew it existed - grew to detest the style that emerged from the two "wars" - against the Argies and the miners. Observing her at close quar-

nessed the way in which Margaret Thatcher began to lash out at all-comers, using variously the gun, the baton and then the handbag against all opponents - even those within her own Cabinet

If she could take on and beat the Argentinians and the miners, there could be no stopping her. The might of the Soviet Union, the back-door socialism of Brussels, the socialism of British Labour - all became targets, which she hit with varying degrees of accuracy.

But she became indiscriminate. Taking on local government with the poll tax rather missed the target, although she would never admit it. She did subsequently admit that the Single European Act, with its sacrifice of sacred sovereignty to the free market, was a sacri-

There has never been any apology, however. That is not her style. Thatcherism never made mistakes; it was seamless, pure, perfect.

Rampant and excessive trade union power was curbed; monolithic and impersonal nationalised industries were privatised. They were replaced by rampant and excessive management power to put people on insecure, short-term, parttime, low-pay contracts - and by equally monolithic and impersonal privatised industries.

And, as The Independent has revealed, there is pitiful little left to show for all pri-atised industry revenues, North Sea oil now crying over spilt milk.

tor borrowing and debt, and the record peaks of personal tax burden that have accompanied

the years of "modernisation". But if one symbolic action illustrates Thatcherism more than any other, it is the way in which the teachers were treated. It was as Secretary of State for Education in the Heath administration that Margaret Thatcher came to public attention when she cut free milk for secondary schools and earned the title "Thatcher, Milk Snatcher". She never seemed to have much time for teachers. and it showed when she became

Prime Minister in 1979. Over the years, she treated them like scum, with a contempt they did not deserve. If the education system was not delivering it was their fault. Derided, scorned, spurned and publicly vilified, the teachers were just one more Thatcher target. Because they were more vulnerable than other groups, they got a specially good kicking.

Then Tories wonder why some children are unruly, why some parents show no respect for the teachers. Remember, it only takes some children and some parents to go bolshie for the whole system to break

So, happy birthday Lady Thatcher. Perhaps you will have time tomorrow to reflect that it is easier to destroy than to build. You destroyed more than you built. Having smashed the bottle on so many heads, it is no use



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You could be Tsering's last hope. She has little or no food to eat, and lives in a tiny, insanitary mud shack. Without help soon she could die.

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Money pages in the Long Weekend

Pru among big insurers giving poor value



Peter Davis: Pru ranks

Insurance companies with the piggest market share often sell the worst value life and pension products to their clients, acording to new research for the

Successful, and high-charging, life companies include Prudential and Royal Insurance. which recently merged with Sun Alliance, another expensive

Research carried out by John Chapman, a former official at the Office of Fair Trading, suggests that some companies win new business through employing large sales rather than by offer-

ended the day nearly two pfennigs higher at DM2.4124, and

its index against a range of cur-

reach 87.8.

rencies added 0.6 points to

The financial markets are

now betting that base rates

will increase before the likely

election date, following disap-

pointing inflation figures on Thursday. Indeed, futures

prices point to a quarter-point

rise in interest rates to 6 per

ing competitive products. The contribution schemes to comlink between quality of products and success in the marketplace is an extremely loose one.

Companies which sell predominantly through independent financial advisers, including Standard Life and Norwich Union, are among the cheapest.

Only one among the cheap-est companies, Equitable Life, which sells solely through its own salaried sales force, is also in the top rank on sales. Equiis Roy Rauson, won £437m of premium income last year. A large slice of this comes through its dominance of the

market for additional voluntary

a further rise to 6.5 per cent by

terest rate policy reflects the

mounting evidence that the

pace of growth is picking up. Minutes of last month's meet-

ing between Eddie George,

Governor of the Bank of Eng-

land, and Kenneth Clarke,

Chancellor of the Exchequer,

published this week revealed

that the Bank thinks there is a

The change of view about in-

pany pensions, of which it has a 50 per cent slice.

Figures from Money Management, a specialist magazine, show that Prudential, whose chief executive is Peter Davis, grabbed £446m of new annualised premium income in 1995, more than any other insurer.

Yet the company's charges are among the highest in the industry, according to a new measuring yardstick developed by Mr Chapman for the OFT. His system shows the Pru as having a below-average rating across its range of products. The OFT-backed measure-

ment follows new rules, intro-

dustry to disclose how much they Prudential received a CCCcharge on the products they self. rating, meaning that the charges His survey comes as the init levies are heavy throughout the life of its policies.

dustry faces a new pressure for reform. The BBC's Panorama Separate figures collated by Money Marketing, another speprogramme on Monday is set to show that company charging cialist magazine, show that somestructures are still too opaque one taking our a with-profits pension with the Pru pays annual and people do not understand if they are being over-charged. charges of 2.5 per cent of the val-Mr Chapman's system ex-amines how much is charged by

a company if a person wants to liance, now Royal & Sun Alsurrender a product or transfer a pension in the early years. The liance, won more than £150m in annualised premium income same is done mid-way through a policy and at the end. Comlast year. On the same pension product, the companies charge between 2 and 2.5 per cent a panies are allocated a rating from A to C, where C is below

per cent of a fund's value each year over 25 years. About half of premium in-

come was brought in by both companies salesforces and tied agency operations. Other companies which successfully attract large volumes of

policyholders funds include "bancassurers" set up by high ne of a fund over 25 years. This street banks. Barclays Life, rises to 46 per cent over 10 years. which took £89.8m last year, placing it in the top 20, narrowly pipped NatWest, Black Horse. Abbey National, Midland and Royal Insurance and Sun Al-TSB, all of whom still vacuumed up large amounts in premiums. Details in the Money Pages. The Long Weekend

CITY & BUSINESS EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER



Roy Ranson: Equitable Life offers lowest charges

Bloom

Majesta

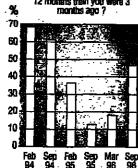
Pound at strongest level for two years

DIANE COYLE

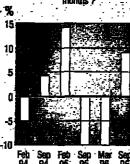
The pound surged yesterday to its highest level for nearly two years, propelled by expectations that a booming economy will mean higher interest rates and by post-Tory conference

As John Major pledged to cut taxes and increase health spending, the pound climbed above DM2.41 for the first

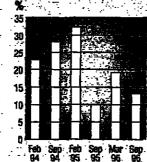
GROWTH PROSPECTS



EMPLOYMENT INTENTIONS



SELLING PRICES



Small companies set for a buoyant future

TOM STEVENSON City Editor

Smaller company bosses are more confident about growth prospects than at any time in the past two years amid signs that the buoyancy of the consumer sector is poised to spill over into general industrial businesses. Earnings growth of almost 20 per cent a year for the next two vears is expected to coincide with continued low inflation to create a strong background for smaller company shares.

Those are some of the findings of the latest SBC Warburg smaller company survey, which shows a marked upturn in con-

fidence over the past six months since the last twice-yearly study. Among general industrial companies, more than one in two businesses say they have become more confident over the past 12 months. A balance of one in five expects orders to be easier to secure and more companies are

The improvement in sentiment reported by 332 heads of companies with market values of under £350m follows a long period of destocking which squeezed margins in many businesses and resulted in a steady downgrading of profits forecasts during the current year and a spate of profits warnings.

Warburg's Richard Hickinbotham and Darren Winder said the strength of responses in the survey made them much more confident that bullish forecasts for 1997 and 1998 would be maintained. Warburg's average forecast for its smaller companies predicts an reporting increased output. 18 per cent earnings per share increase next year and 17 per

cent during the following year. Latest estimates are that earnings will have grown 7 per cent That compares with forecasts of under 7 per cent earnings growth for FTSE 100 constituent companies and 13 per cent for the FTSE 250.

the inflation target if the Chancellor does not tighten mone-

Official figures on Thursday showed that the underlying inflation rate increased last month. It was 2.9 per cent in September, up from 2.8 per cent, compared with the 2.5 per cent target.

The political mood also helped to propel the pound up-wards yesterday. Traders said that overseas investors seemed to like the outcome of the Conservative Party conference.

Chris Turner, currency strategist at BZW, said: "There has been a fair amount of overseas interest in sterling since Tony Blair visited the US. That makes it a bit surprising that investors reacted well to the Tories this week, but they did." He warned that investor

sentiment might shift back the other way, especially if the financial markets also conclude that their interest rate expectations are overdone.

Figures on US inflation and retail sales yesterday suggested there would be no pressure on the Federal Reserve to change interest rates on the other side

of the Atlantic Prices charged by manufacturers at the factory gate rose 0.2 per cent last month to a level 2.9 per cent higher than a year earlier. This was lower than the previous month and less than analysts had expected.

'Core" producer prices, excluding the volatile food and energy components, have risen only 1.4 per cent during the past 12 months. Higher energy and gasoline prices, reflecting the higher price of crude oil, explained the difference between the core and headline rates.

There was a big increase in retail sales in September. But the impact of the 0.7 per cent rise was offset by a big downward revision to the August sales figure. The Commerce Department changed its initial estimate of a 0.2 per cent increase to a 0.2 per cent drop



group, has returned to its roots with the £8.5m acquisition of the Royal Crescent Hotel in Bath (above) from Queens Moat Houses, writes Magnus Grimond. The hotel was acquired for £187,000 in 1979 by a company controlled by John Tham, John Lewis and James Crathome, three of the

principals behind Cliveden, before

being sold for £7.5m in 1987 to Norfolk Capital, the hotel group which Queens Moat acquired in 1990.

Cliveden came to the stock market earlier this year with the aim of developing a chain of exclusive hotels based on the stately home formerly owned by the Astor family. The group said Cliveden had raised room rates by an average of 5.5 per cent to

£245 since 1987, compared with just 1.7 per cent to £113m at the Royal Crescent over the past nine years. But it had confidence a "material increase" in room rates could be achieved following a refurbishment to be completed by next autumn. Cliveden's shares were unchanged at 74.5p yesterday.

Photograph: Charlie Varley/SW News

City salaries increase by 25%

JILL TREANOR Banking Correspondent

The City's high flyers are being lured to new employers by promises of basic salary increases of around 25 per cent and for the first time in 10 years there is demand for staff in all areas of financial services, according to a leading firm of City

Jonathan Wren's October survey of pay scales in the City shows that the average age of chief dealers in the treasury markets is 32 and their average salary is £106,897.

That is the most basic compensation package and does not include the much-coveted bonuses which can double pay

Nat West, which this week

acquired the investment bou- in exceptional circumstances tique Hambro Magan, is thought to have tied 120 senior staff in the combined corporate finance arm with golden hand-

cuffs worth £1m apiece. So far, 1996 has been an excellent year for the City. Stock markets have rallied and a bumper crop of mergers and acquisitions has generated much activity among the corporate fi-

nanciers who arrange the deals. And more and more topranking professionals are prepared to leave their jobs in the middle of the financial year by guaranteed bonuses, designed to compensate them for any pay-out they would have

received by their previous employer. These guarantees usually last

for only the first year and only

extend beyond that. Generally speaking, when

they move they get a rise of 15 to 25 per cent which is why you are seeing quite a lot of people moving," said Roger Steare. chief executive of Jonathan Wren. In contrast, staff who stay with their employers are likely to see pay rises of 3 to 5 per cent. "Demand is present right across the board. That's the first

time we've seen that since Big Bang," Mr Steare said. The Jonathan Wren survey shows that a chief treasury dealer with 10 years' experience is likely to be earning a basic

salary of £165,436. Foreign exchange dealers with one year's experience, aged around 24, earn an average salary of £50,007. With 10 years' experience, the dealer will be earning £104.727. Options dealers in foreign ex-

change earn £53.045 with one year's experience but close to £100,000 after ten years in the markets.

In capital markets, a syndicate official can expect to earn £60,778 with five years' experience. A gilts trader with one year's experience, aged 31, is earning £53,675. A researcher. average age 26 with one year's experience, earns £31,890.

Equities traders, with one year's experience, are earning £43,194, while sales staff are earning £36,903.

Mergers and acquisitions professionals with one year's experience are earning £47.4(0), rising by £20,000 with 10 years'

Names up in arms as Lloyd's sends out writs

JOHN WILLCOCK

Dissident names reacted with fury yesterday to writs issued by Lloyd's of London in the insurance market's drive to recoup a total of £500m in unpaid bills. "I'm absolutely and completely incensed and enraged," said Sally Noel yesterday, after

receiving a demand for £297,000 from Lloyd's. Lloyd's is seeking to recover money from around 1,800 names who have refused to accept Lloyds's £3.2bn compensation deal for losses incurred

FTSE 100

by the market in recent years. Altogether 127 individuals have received a total of 207 writs under the Lloyd's debt collection programme. Some face two separate demands, one for central fund debt and another for general losses.

newly formed dissident investors' group, the United Names Organisation (UNO), has received two writs, which together total a "six-figure sum".

"UNO has been set up with the specific intention of de-

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STOCK MARKETS

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"These are crazy figures, they haven't been audited, they are

David Harris, a leader of the

1996 Low Yield(%)

3632.30 3.88

1816.60 3.79

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1791.95 3.74

10204.87 3.39+

4568.60 4015.30 3.44

22666.80 19734.70 0.77†

2702.99 2253.36 1.73†

UNO, was "very angry" when she received her writ "How dare Mr Rowland [chairman of fending names against these Lloyd's] serve me a writ. I'm in-

writs. Now we can lodge our de-fence and go in with a counter-claim," said Mr Harris. As for his own writ, he said:

all wrong. They have just been plucked almost out of the air." Mr Harris said he had heard several names had been served with writs demanding more Mrs Noel, co-chairman of

going to be cutting it [the writ] up. I will fight Mr Rowland to the death."

Sue Dingwall, a partner with solicitors Dibb Lupton Alsop, is part of the Lloyd's debt collection team which sent out the writs. She said yesterday: "This is a rolling process. We have started with UK names. Next week we will continue with other UK and overseas names. We hope to have our first judgement before Christmas.

nocent. Ive never been guilty of at the beginning of the month not paying a debt in my life. I'm to those about to receive wits. Many had then written back to Dibb Lupton, Lloyd's or their agents, seeking a resolution, she said. According to Lloyd's, about 60 dissidents have sought talks after receiving the letters.

A "proportion" had paid up, said Ms Dingwall, one being a

payment for £59,000. Mr Harris said he heard of some people paying up when faced with a writ. "These are frightening tactics by Lloyd's," he said. Mrs Noel said that those Lloyd's sent warning letters who had signed up to the and our two QCs."

Lloyd's restructuring had abandoned their rights to legal re-dress. She said that in two years' time if Equitas, the vehicle for Lloyds's past claims, was insolvent "as Γm sure it will be," they would regret signing.
These crippling demands will drive more people to suicide," she said.

Catherine MacKenzie Smith. another efficial of UNO, said that names receiving writs should contact UNO. "We are passing these writs on directly to our solicitor, David Freman

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INTEREST RATES

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Bid rumours lift Man United

TOM STEVENSON

Private investors piled into Manchester United shares yesterday in anticipation of a bid for the football club, ignoring blanket denials from rumoured suitors and a statement from the company that it had received no approaches. The shares closed 61p higher at 513.5p.

Institutions were understood to have taken profits on the shares, which have soured from under 200p at the beginning of the year, using the surge of interest from small investors to lighten their holdings. Volumes exceeded half a million shares yesterday, unusually active trading for the stock.

shares has partly reflected the potential profits expected to flow from a lucrative new television deal with BSkvB, but it has largely been fuelled by takeover speculation.

boost yesterday by a newspaper article quoting Martin Edwards. chief executive, as saying: "Any successful company is an attractive takeover prospect. People are going to look at it, so it could well be the subject of more takeover proposals."

The speculation took the market capitalisation of the

club to over £300m where it remained despite a statement pouring cold water on the rumours: "We have noted the recent media coverage suggesting that Manchester United has received an approach which may lead to an offer being made for the company. The board is not aware of any proposals,"

United is understood to have rejected a takeover bid from publishing group VCl earlier this year which valued the club at £300m. The company made no announcement about those talks at the time, claiming that they did not constitute a formal approach, despite the apparent financial backing of HSBC.

The most recent speculation The rapid rise in United's has linked the brewer Whitbread and the television and leisure group Granada with the club, although both companies have denied any involvement.

A spokesman for Whithread said: "The report is complete The rumour mill received a rubbish. We would kwe to buy the club but we have as many heer drinkers in Liverpool. Newcastle and Chebea." Granada is known to be interested in # developing a magazine television channel with the club, but it is thought to be too busy digesting its recent purchase of Forte to contemplate a move on Manchester United.



JEREMY WARNER

'Monetary union is an act of faith. Until it is tried, it is hard to tell what its effects might be'

Pro-EMU business lobby is speaking out at last

One of the oddest and most disturbing things about European Monetary Union is just how little serious analysis and debate it has generated. This in itself may seem an odd thing to say about an issue which is always in the headlines, is making a reasonable fist of destroying the Conservative Party, and has even been known to cause the odd bar-room brawl. But if you think about it, it is true. The debate is conducted almost entirely at a political level, both here and on

The argument here in Britain is between those who want to be a part of Europe and those who don't; on the Continent, EMU is an act of faith, a way of binding Europe together to ensure that never again will there be war or dissension between nations. But look for the serious economic analysis and polemic, and there's hardly any. Certainly there's nothing to compare with the Cecchini report on the likely effects of the single European market.

In part this is because EMU is indeed an act of faith. Until it is tried, it is hard to tell what its effects might be. We know that it will involve a not insignificant reduction in transaction costs, but we don't know much about its other economic effects. Nor do we really know whether it is possible to have both monetary union and, as envisaged, a continuation of independent national fiscal

is there a serious attempt to answer them. On the latter question, for instance, you either believe it will be possible or that it won't; the debate rarely rises above this simple statement of position. So it is refreshing to hear that big business, which constitutes one of the few pro-EMU lobbies in Britain, is planning to step up its efforts to air these

Niall FitzGerald, newly appointed chairman of Unilever, is planning a full frontal attack on the anti-EMU brigade, which will be delivered from a businessman's perspective in a Chatham House speech next week. At its conference next month, the CBI promises a Euro debate, with David Simon, chairman of BP, and Peter Sutherland, chairman and managing director of Gold-man Sachs (Europe), putting the case in favour of EMU. So as not to alienate its strong anti-EMU constituency, the CBI is lining up John Redwood and Sir John

Hoskyns to put the other side of the case. Mr FitzGerald makes an obvious champion of EMU. For a start, he's Irish. He also runs a company which is as strongly Dutch as it is British. Unilever is owned by two holding companies, one British and one Dutch, but it is run as a unified whole. If Holland were in, but Britain out, it would create the most horrendous problems. Furthermore, if the economic consequences of | Euro-sceptic.

The questions are asked, but hardly ever being out were bad enough, then Unilever's there a serious attempt to answer them. have to be called on; assets would have to be transferred from the Dutch company to support the British.

Mr FitzGerald's concerns about being out go beyond these specific practical difficulties, however. At present all Unilever toilet soap for the European market is produced from a factory near Liverpool. That strategy and others like it will have to be rethought if Britain stays out.

Mr FitzGerald is only one of the most vocal in a growing body of business opin-ion. Slowly but surely, the pro-EMU busi-ness lobby is emerging from the closet. It is easy to see why this is such a painful and difficult process. There can scarcely have been a more pro-business administration -not since the last century anyway - than the one that has ruled Britain for the past 17 years. And yet as the rest of Europe hurtles down the path of monetary union, the Government becomes progressively more Euro-sceptic. There are now just two pro-EMU politicians left in the Cabinet, Kenneth Clarke and Michael Heseltine, and even they feel constrained in what they say. In public at least, they are gagged. The rest have run for cover. Even Michael Howard, once upon a time a convinced pro-European, now speaks the language of the rabid

in these circumstances, it doesn't seem surprising that business too should hold its tongue and hedge its bets. Rarely does it pay to bite the hand that feeds you. All the same, number of our leading multinationals are beginning to feel distinctly uncomfortable about their rabbit-like position, held in the glare of EMU's headlights. More of them are planning to speak out.

There has also been a subtle, but quite sig-I nificant, shift in their position in recent months. Up until now, the pro-EMU view in Britain has generally been of the half-heart-ed variety espoused by Lord Kingsdown's committee on monetary union. Horribly sim-plified, it goes something like this; we're not really sure whether EMU is a good thing or not, but what we are sure of is that if it does go ahead and we are not in it, then that will be bad for Britain. In other words, if you can't beat them, join them.

The new view, championed by business leaders such as Mssrs Fitzgerald and Simon, is much more positively pro-EMU. EMU is a good thing, we should definitely be in from the start, the consequences would be dire if we were not. As always, the message has to be exaggerated to drive the point home. And yet it is still tempered up to a point.

Most of us British exponents of monetary union are still worried about the timetable.

Even accepting that the Maastricht criteria define an adequate degree of convergence, which in itself is debatable, the massaging of national accounts going on makes it highly questionable that the required convergence is being achieved. If as a consequence, EMIU falls apart within a few years of start up, that will be the end of it, if not for good,

certainly for a generation or more. So if you believe in EMU, which many of our world-class companies do, then it is by no means a contradiction to think that we are also moving much too swiftly towards it. The fact that we are is a Franco-German mistake. Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, wouldn't be caught dead admitting it, of course, but close observers of these things have noted an ever so slight shift in his position in recent months. Egged on by the Bundesbank, guardian of the strong Deutschmark, it is just remotely possible he is preparing to adjust his position and put

back the timetable a year or two.

That may be wishful thinking, of course, but it shouldn't stop our leading companies. arguing for it. We cannot afford to botch something as important as this. If, as a Brit, it is hard to say this with much conviction, that is only because we all still feel too much like the outsider, proselytising about somebody else's club. If we said it as committed An alarming degree of fudge is required to | Europeans, then we might actually get heard.

Bloomberg to run 24-hour news

MATHEW HORSMAN Media Editor

Bloomberg, the financial data company, is to launch a 24-hour all-news channel in the UK next year, as part of the BSkyB digital multichannel package.

The company, owned 70 per cent by former merchant banker Michael Bloomberg, is also lining up European deals to carry localised versions of its television

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service, which is already avail- due to be launched in the able in the US. A Frenchlanguage service will be launched on 18 November as

part of the Canal Plus package.
Bloomberg-branded television is already broadcast on a
limited basis in the UK. including on Sky News. But the 24-hour format will be made possible by the greatly ex-panded capacity afforded by BSkyB's digital satellite service,

Sky prepares to launch digital television boxes

launch of its set-top box for dig-ital satellite, and will select three manufacturers to supply the equipment within two weeks, writes Mathew Horsman. Pace

be a preferred supplier.
The boxes, which will allow subscribers to receive Sky's digital television service, will dem for Internet connection. BSkyB has the backing of telecome giant BT and Barclays Bank, BSkyB hopes to attract the help of manufacturers and

retailers to ensure the boxes cost no more than £200, despite indications that the current retail price for similar equip-

ment is about £400. BSkyB has developed a dual-Microtechnology is expected to track strategy to sell digital equipment through the high street and to supply boxes directly to analogue customers who want to upgrade to digital. also include a high-speed mo- The company is eager to subscriber base, even as it attempts to convert as many as possible to the new digital autumn of 1997.

Sky is expected to launch with at least 100 channels, adding other services over time. In addition to its analogue range, which is likely to migrate to the digital platform, Sky has signed deals with other broadcasters to ioin the digital bouquet in time for the launch.

There are also plans to offer pay-per-view sport and films, as well as Internet connections

and electronic banking.
The Bloomberg television channel will be produced in London, at the company's City offices. Mr Bloomberg, who confirmed the digital plans in an interview with the Independent, conceded that television revenues are likely to be small next to the £930m the company earned last year from the sale of its terminals and related

financial information services. "It's hard to see what you might call the media businesses generating anything like the business that the terminals generate," Mr Bloomberg said. "That part of our business is growing at 30 per cent. We'd have to be awfully successful at television to come close to

There's more to building a workforce than simply pulling together a lot of people and telling them to get on with it.

automotive industry, next door to Ford at Halewood. When they moved to Merseyside in '94, they devised their own job application form that looked for team players. People who played for a local football team. People who organised outings for the disabled.

Training & Enterprise Councils, the 104 graduates

"Forget Liverpool or Everton. This is the best team on Merseyside."

Team spirit. Initiative. People who cared about

Johnsons have used some of their Merseyside line in Dagenham.

'I would like to take my workforce with me - wherever I go."

But the enthusiasm, teamwork and 'can-do' attitude you find on Merseyside aren't restricted to Johnson

Ask the management teams at other car component companies, like Deico Electronics, Champion Spark Plugs and Mackie Automotives.

Outside the car business, ask oil and gas exploration company BHP, Glaxo, BICC or Kodak. (You really can ask them. As a new investor on Merseyside, you're invited to join a regular forum who pool their knowledge of the region and share those experiences with you).

And ask them about Merseyside's financial incentives, training assistance and site availability. Or the R&D opportunities with the two world class Universities.

But what about the team at Johnson?

They met their first production target way ahead of have always been focused on getting their goals.

OUR MERSE

Johnson Controls are a 'just-in-time' company in the

From 600 interviews, 104 were chosen. Only 3

And after special training by one of Merseyside's three

When the production line started rolling, Johnson saw one or two things you rarely see coming off a

their company.

Their working methods have proved so successful that workforce as consultants in developing their production

schedule. No surprises there. After all, Merseysiders



A'pool of talent

Majestic plans to float on AIM

TOM STEVENSON City Editor

Majestic Wine, the UK's largest wine warehouse chain, is planning a flotation on the Alternative Investment Market next month to fund expansion of its 59 outlets out of the company's south of England heartland. Raising £2m of new money, the flotation will put a value of

about £20m on the company, which will be 70 per cent-owned by John Apthorp, the 61-year-old founder of Bejam, who ran the freezer stores group for 20 years until its acquisition by Iceland in 1989.

Majestic, which made operating profits before exceptional items of £1.24m in the year to April from sales of £40.1m, emerged from the combination of Majestic Wine Warehouses with Wizard Wine, formerly part of Iceland, in 1991. It accounts for just under 2 per cent of the still wine sold in Britain and 6 per cent of cham-

pagne sales. Majestic differentiates itself from high street off-heenees and supermarkets with an emphasis on customer service - 80 per cent of its staff are graduates a wide stock range, on-site parking, the ability to taste wines

every day and free delivery. Since 1994, pre-exceptional profits have grown from £449,000. Pro-forma carnings per share of 3.9p that year grew to 6.6p in 1995 and 9.7p in the year to last April.

The average spend per cus-tomer at a Majestic warehouse was £84 last year, reflecting the requirement to buy at least onc case per purchase and a tendency for the group's predominantly middle-aged target audience to buy increasingly expensive wines. More than half the wines sold at Majestic are from France, with 27 per cent from the New World.

IN BRIEF

 Sales growth in the international music industry slowed down in the first half of 1996, a survey from the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry said. Worldwide sales amounted to \$16.2bn (£10.3bn), an increase of only 0.2 per cent over the same period in 1995 and a fall in real terms. Volumes rose by 5 per cent in the same period, with unit sales rising to

 Airtours, the UK's second-biggest travel company, has set up a tour operating business in California. It will trade as Sunquest Holidays and operate from Los Angeles. The company said the number of potential customers in California was roughly equal to that of the UK market. Sunquest Holidays will form part of a division to be called the North American Leisure Group under the management of Leo Desrochers, chief executive of Airtours' Canadian tour operations. Sunquest will start operations in April and will provide holidays from departure points in Southern Cal-

ifornia to destinations in Hawaii, Mexico and the Caribbean. Stena Line said it would close its ferry service between Southampton and Cherbourg in France at the end of December and replace it with a service between Portsmouth and Cherbourg. It said the change was due to falls in passenger volumes. The new route and the introduction of one of its new high-speed ferries would help to boost volumes and profitability, the company said.

Berry Birch & Noble has agreed to sell part of its insurance broking business to Lloyd's brokers, Thompson Heath & Bond, for £166,000. The transfer is part of the commercial insurance broking account, but does not include any private medical insurance or permanent health insurance, or any life and pensions business. The value of the brokerage income earned on the business to be sold for the last year to September was £221,000.

• Alpha Airports, the in-flight catering and airport shops group, warned of continuing difficult markets for its catering business as it reported an 11 per cent drop in interim profits to £10m. The group moved last month to eliminate losses in its US kitchens, which climbed from £0.5m to £1.8m in the half year, by selling the business for £6.8m. The group said the disposal would enable it to refects operations on markets where it is strongest and able it to refocus operations on markets where it is strongest and best placed to counter competitive pressures.

 Campbell & Armstrong, the shopfitters, unveiled comprehensive refinancing proposals yesterday which, if accepted, will lead to the relisting of its shares, which were temporarily suspended on 1 August. The company plans to place 65 million new ordinary shares at 5p each to raise £2.77m, coupled with a debt-for-equity swap with its bankers, Nat West. It also plans to make an open offer to qualifying shareholders of 14.44 million ordinary shares at 5p per share, on the basis of one new ordinary share for one existing ordinary share. The debt-equity swap will enable the company to repay nearly £4m to NatWest. Campbell is seeking approval for the appointment of Gil Thompson as non-executive deputy chairman and John Cowburn as finance director. The company also announced a pre-tax loss of £7.98m for the 13 months to 31 January.

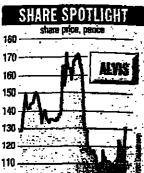
• Select Appointments, the employment agency, said it planned to raise around £30m from a listing on the US Nasdaq market. The public offering, planned for November, is to be accompanied to a role of charge he existing should be a role of the resident of nied by a sale of shares by existing shareholders to raise £13.5m at current prices. The news came as Select announced nearly donbled pre-tax profits of £8m in the six months to June and said it would restore the interim dividend at 1p. Boosted by acquisitions since the beginning of last year, sales soured 77 per cent to £161m. The company said it was "confident of a successful outcome for the year as a whole".

market report/shares

DATA BANK

FTSE 100 4028.1+33.4 FTSE 250 4443.8+11.0

FTSE 350 2004.0++14.2 SEAO VOLUME 644.5m shares, 38,886 bargains



BSkyB reaches new heights after American buying

Blue chips closed at their high for the day after Wall Street surged 50 points on the back of positive sentiment about the US interest rate outlook after benign retail sales data. The FISE 100 index ended the week at 4028.1, up 33.4 and just Seven points shy of another all-

time closing high.
Further US buying pushed satellite broadcaster BSkyB 265p higher at 650p, a new record. Technical analysts also noted that the shares had recently broken through chart resistance at 600p.

BSkyB is also a very tightlyheld stock. Just four shareholders speak for 72 per cent of the shares, so it does not take many traders to be caught short to squeeze the price higher. Rolls-Royce roared ahead 7p

to 254.5p on hefty volumes of 1L4 million after US plane 777 airliners powered by Rolls-Royce's Trent 800 engines. A buy note from SBC Warburg also helped.

The retail sector was generally buoyant after a survey from the CBI showing a rise in September retail sales, albeit at a slower pace than in August. However, J Sainsbury remained shunned ahead of interim results at the end of the month. BZW added to the recent clutch of negative broker comments by issuing a sell note, while switching into Tesco,

4p up at 317p, was also noted.
With only 73 shopping days
left to Christmas, brokers'
thoughts are turning to the general retail sector, which has underperformed the stock market by 4 per cent since July. Nat West thinks this has been overdone and highlighted several shares, notably Dixons.

MARKET REPORT

PATRICK TOOHER

to 587.5p as analysts returned from a trip to see its Italian op-erations and investment bank Robert Fleming upgraded its net asset value from 600p to

800p. Manchester United, Trafford with arch-rivals Liver-Chief executive Martin Edand that any proposals would be given serious consideration

Enterprise Oil firmed 18.5p 513.5p, up £513.5m valuing

the club at over £318. . Media and leisure group Granada, brewer Whitbread and Lord Hollick's United

paring for this morning's top-of-the-table clash at Old pool, proved the old adage that football is a funny old game.

interest in buying United, but. all three companies denied

Then, in a highly unusual move, United issued a stock exchange statement saying the board was not aware of any bid approaches - this from the company that conspicuously failed to inform the market when it received a £300m bid

Out-of factors: Matthew been starged of defence orders Clark factors executive essent in recent mounts but investors Shares in the cider group, clearly think its turn for a luwhich recently issued a profits warning citing the adverse impact of "alcopops" on its Baby-cham, K and Diamond brands.

hit a six-year low of 267.5p in early trade. Overnight activity in the options market was blamed. But nerves were soothed after the Stock Exchange safe publication of a block exact of 1.95 million shares at 3 fbp tradsacted on 3 October should not have been delayed aithit two days ago. The shares ended 4.5p down at

Shares in Alvis rose 11.5p to 131p. Traders noted a number of large buy orders from Europe on hopes that Alvis is ment consultant Select Apclose to securing a significant contract with the Ministry of Defence in the near future.

Alvis, municipalities behind

GKN and Visites in the UK

crative contract may be just Speculation continued to swirl around exhibitions group Bienheim, 1.5p higher at 484p. One story suggested that Anglo-Dutch publisher Reed-Elsevier was getting cold feet about making a full bid. Another suggested rival Dutch publisher VNU, which picked up a near-15 per cent stake at 500p in a recent "dawn raid" would re-enter the market next

week and buy more shares. Airtours rose 13p to 606.5p after setting up a new tour operating unit in California. And shares in USM-listed recruitpointments rose 32p to 370p the junior Nasdaq stock

Shares in loudspeaker maker Verity struck snother high note, rising 0.75p to 30.5p. Private investors are siling into the stock on hopes that Verity's new, wafer-thin NXT loudspeakers will be licensed to the likes of Nokia or Panasonic. Verity is exhibiting its wares at the Birmingham motor show on

TAKING STOCK

Campbell & Armstrong. returned from a two-month suspension, fell 3.75p to 6.75p as the shopfitter unveiled plans to place 65 million shares at 5p each to raise £2.77m, A debt-forequity swap and a reorganisation of the group's borrowings are also planned. In the 13 months to January Irwin, the contracting divi-

sion put into administration which rose 23p to 567p, making it the best FTSE 100 maker Boeing said the Federal from video group VCI in May, which coincided with a sharp if offers started at over £400m. market. It also posted a dou-The reports drove United's bling of interim pre-tax profgranted initial approval to its shares to a record high of Service and the service and th 1985

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Terrifying destiny of Tiger Woods

Let the planet beware. America, that unrivalled manufacturer of sporting achievement, hype and legend is launching its latest sensation into global orbit and this time in a game, unlike baseball or American football, that the rest of the world actually plays and follows avidly.

Last Sunday, at just his fifth attempt, the 20-year-old Tiger Woods won his first professional golf tournament, the Las Vegas Invitational Now Tiger Woods is not just any rookie who gets lucky early on. For one thing, he is black. Moreover, he is by common consent the most exciting player to emerge on the US circuit since a flaxen-haired prodigy from Ohio State University named Jack Nicklaus won the US Open in 1962, his

own first year on the tour. On August 27, two days after securing an unprecedented third consecutive US amateur title, Woods formally abandoned his studies at Stanford University, California, and turned pro. At his first attempt he finished 60th, at his second sixth, then fifth, third and now first. A win and three top-10 finishes is decent enough reward for most professional golfers in an entire year. Woods did it in his first six weeks. In the process he has earned \$437,194 (£282,000) an automatic two-year exemption, and a fame that could one day catapult him into the stratos phere of sporting celebrity.

Unlike the spectacular but self-destructive John Daly, the last rookie to set the golf world on fire when he won the US PGA championship in 1991 as a last-minute invitee, manifest destiny is wrapped around Tiger Woods. Since he was a babe in arms, he has been groomed for his sport. So, of course, have hundreds and thousands of other infants similarly the apple of their parents' eye. In this case, however, the process worked.

"He has the most fundamentally sound golf swing for anybody his age who has ever played. He has unbelievable power and he has touch. He thinks clearly, has tremendous poise, tremendous focus and tremendous competitive instincts. I don't think there's anything he can't do in this game." That is not a sponsor's blurb, or psychological warfare from an underdog opponent, but the considered judgement of the Golden Bear himself, delivered Woods at the Masters last April.

Not only was the youngster outdriving Daly. His technique was superior, and his temperament solid as a rock. After consultation in the Augusta clubhouse with the old lion Arnold Palmer, Nicklaus upped the ante further: young Tiger could win more Masters than he was so christened in honour of and Palmer combined. In oth- a Vietnamese colleague of his start. Just ask Jack Nicklaus.

He is a marketing man's dream. Rupert Cornwell on golf's black phenomenon

er words, more than 10. Nick Faldo, by comparison, has three. All poor Tiger must do now is live up to expectations.

The combination of pres-

sures - of fame, race and money - that he will face is terrifying. Woods is a black man practising an overwhelmingly white sport. There is only one other black golfer on the PGA tour, whose stars are mostly God-fearing Republicans from the segregated and conservative white suburbs of Anywhere USA. And assuming he fulfils even a portion of his promise, what sort of role model will he be? Surely not a ghetto hero à la Jordan. "Be like Tiger" and spend hours working on your short game - that doesn't ring quite right. More



Woods: \$40m Nike contract

likely, he will be a "feelgood" figure, to sport much as Colin Powell is to contemporary US politics, the unthreatening black who soothes white consciences. whose success permits other injustices to be forgotten.

Woods would no more buy that thesis than Powell. Both want to excel, not just to be the best black at their chosen trade, but the best, period. And the golfer would additionally point out he is only half black. Though his father Earl, a retired army lieutenant colonel and Green Beret in Vietnam, is Afro-American, his mother Kultida is Thai Tell that however to the marketing men. Even before his first drive as a pro (a 336-yard smash the Greater Milwaukee Open on August 29) Woods had signed a \$40m endorsement contract with Nike, and made ads in which he said there were still courses in the US he could not play "because of the colour of my skin."

And quite apart from his

father; but as a brand name for a new line in golf goods it was surely bestowed by the Almighty. So, for that matter, was his articulateness, and a 240-watt smile enough to light up a golf course by itself.

Such is his drawing power that organisers of the forthcoming Australian Open are said to be paying him \$190,000 in appearance money, \$40,000 more than Down Under's own Greg Nor-man, the top-ranked golfer in the world. Normally the US amateur championship has little more appeal than a final trials eliminator in the coxless fours. This year, Woods' clinching of a third title drew a TV audience twice as large as watched the simultaneously broadcast final round of the World Series of Golf, won by the left-hander Phil Mickelson, one of golf's most attractive young pretenders, with Norman in contention.

But what of the inevitable lean streaks, indeed lean years? Woods is never satisfied by less than victory and he has started out like an angel, but might not failure summon demons he now does not even know?

And golf's corporate backers demand good behaviour in return for their money. Three weeks ago Woods abruptly withdrew from what would have been his fifth pro event, the Buick Classic, insisting that he was emotionally and mentally drained. His new tour colleagues, already jealous enough of the newcomer's fame and fortune, publicly seethed. "I guess once he made his money, it's got to be a letdown," Davis Love III was quoted as saying. The old warhorse Lee Trevino was hardy less brutal: "They compare Tiger Woods to Nicklaus and Arnold Palmer. But Palmer and Nicklaus would never have done what he did at the Buick."

But last weekend Woods secured the sweetest of vindication, defeating Love in the sudden death play-off in Las Vegas. "He played a heck of a round when he had to," said Love of his opponent's final 8under-par 64 that lifted him into a tie for the lead, "And you can't postpone the inevitable, I'm happy for him." Translated, those words amount to a rush of common sense: "Tiger is go-ing to clean up," Love might have added on behalf of his colleagues "but it's fantastic for golf." And indeed it is. Tiger winner's cheque every Sunday. But his presence means greater public interest, bigger audiences, more TV money, richer sponsorship, more lucrative franchising deals - in short more money for everyone in the sport. Unless, of course, he implodes. More probably, how-ever, last Sunday was only the



Costantino Rocca chipping out of a bunker by the seventh green yesterday. He was Italy's only winner against Spalm

Indians send Scotland packing

ANDY FARRELL

reports from St Andrews

Oh, our Costa Ricas and Paraguays of yesteryear. Scotland's catalogue of calamity was ex-tended when they lost to India on the second day of the Alfred Dunhill Cup yesterday. The home of golf is as familiar with tartan humiliation as faraway football fields. Where Paraguay succeed-ed in 1993, India followed with a 2-1 win that left the defending champions without a hope of

qualifying for the semi-finals. There are around 150 golf courses in India; in Scotland there is one every 150 yards. Clearly Scotland, hoping for a 3-0 win after defeat by Sweden on Thursday, were in trouble once the Indians turned up and teed up on the Old Course.

played in a major international team event." Gauray Ghei said. "We hoped to make an impact and we have done that now." Indian summer afternoon, but with a chilly St Andrews wind gusting over the links. Ghei beat Colin Montgomerie with a 78 to a 79. Andrew Coltart lost to

Jeev Singh at the first extra hole. and only Raymond Russell restored some pride with a 13-shot win over Ali Sher. Montgomerie blamed a rake outside a bunker at the sixth. which deflected his ball under the lip of a bunker from where

he took a triple bogey, and the weather. "I wouldn't like to say the wind was a leveller, but it gives everyone a more equal opportunity," Montgomerie said. "It was unfortunate the wind got up. It was difficult to two-putt from 70 feet." Don't mention The Oxfordshire or Carnoustie.

before going to the first again, where Coltart three-putted from 35 feet. The main scoreboard had Scotland winning 2-1 and Montgomerie was explaining how they could still qualify when he was told the corrected score. "How did I know someone was going to mention Paraguay," he said. Singh was third on the Asian PGA Tour order of mer-it for 1996-97, and Ghei fifth, but the tour is not recognised by the Sony rankings. Singh and Ghei are tied for 696th place, and Sher is unranked. India today play Sweden, who beat Zimbabwe,

3-0. Sweden just need to win one game to clinch the group.
Usually at this competition the Saturday drawsheet has an addendum running into several pages of ifs, buts and maybes concerning the possible outcomes of the four groups. This year at least Group Three is

Singh and Coltart tied on 74 clear-cut, with the winners of the washing Canada, 3-0, Australia gained a similar result over Germany and they will top Group Four with a win, or a 2-1 defeat. against New Zealand. But if the Kiwis win 3-0, and Japan beat Germany 3-0, then Japan will go through after their 2-1 victory over New Zealand yesterday.

> In Group One, the United States are in the strongest position, but if they lose to Spain, England could still qualify with a win over Italy. Despite Mark O'Meara's defeat to Barry Lane's 18 straight pars. Steve Stricker beat Jonathan Lomas after the Englishman went out of bounds twice at the 14th, and Phil Mickelson birdied two of the last three to beat Lee West

DUNHILL CUP

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Sciandri on a mission

Cycling

reports from Lugano

Max Sciandri takes on the best in world cycling in Lugano tomorrow, vowing not to repeat the mistakes of Atlanta and Leeds. Although his bronze gave Britain their first Olympic road race medal for 40 years, Sciandri admits that he spoiled his victory chances because he worked too hard earlier.

Three weeks later he missed rictory in the Leeds Classic World Cup race when he left it late to respond to the final sprint of his lone rival, Andrea Ferrigato. "I am concerned about those slips, and I intend to hold back a little more and save something for the finish," Sciandri said after training with

Nayan Mongia's maiden Test

century put India in command

of the one-off Test against Ans-

tralia in New Delhi yesterday.

The opener and wicketkeeper hit 137 not out and took India

to a second-day total of 319 for 6, a lead of 137.

Cricket

Australia 182

India 319 for 6

the British team over the 16.8 kilometre circuit where 177 riders will battle out Sunday's

world road race championship.
With two challenging climbs
on each of the 15 laps, Sciandn's
rivals include the title-holder, Spain's Abraham Olano, and the winners of the major Tours, the Dane Bjame Riis (Tour de France), the Russian Pavel Tonkov (Italy), and the Swiss Alex Zülle (Spain) who on Thursday beat Chris Boardman for the world time trial gold.

Sciandri, Derby-born and Italian bred, is riding for the last time with his Motorola teammate Sean Yates who is retiring. Today Britain's women race

over 100km of the same circuit where Olympic road race champion Jeannie Longo, of France, is pursuing her 12th

Spanish fleet threaten to withdraw

STUART ALEXANDER eports from Barcelona

A threatened walk-out by the Spanish competitors in the Glen-fiddich Gold Cup was averted yesterday, but sour complaints about the management of what should have been the crowning event of the European Melges 24 season abounded at the Olympic marina. Luis-Martinez Doreste ig-

nored diplomatic subtlety by posting on the notice board a letter he had sent to the organisers saying "we feel that the fact that in every race the big majority of the reports from the jury have been against Spanish crews... makes the reliability of the jury very doubtful".

As the chairman of the fiveman jury, Manel Pedreira. is Spanish, he was even less amused to read further on that "this event is not being held fairly and we do not feel ready to carry on playing this game". Another letter, from the chairman of the race committee to the

jury, was hastily withdrawn. After a little delay, all the Spanish boats went out in the first race. The winner was Ken Thelen of Norway, who opened a big lead on Giorgio Zuccoli of Italy. Keeping the British flag flying were John Merricks and Ian Walker, who recovered from being 14th to finish fourth and keep the overall lead.

Tibbs takes lead

Chris Tibbs, the man with two Whitbread Round the World races behind him, took Concert into the lead of the BT Global Challenge yesterday as the 14 yachts tracked south past the Cape Verde Islands on the first leg to Rio de Janeiro, writes Stuart Alexander.

Tibbs was to the east and nearer Africa than Mike Golding who, in Group 4, has led most of the time. Between them, and just one mile behind, was Simon Walker, the youngest skipper in the race but, this time on Toshiba, doing his second "wrong-way" circumnavigation. Tibbs has been coping with

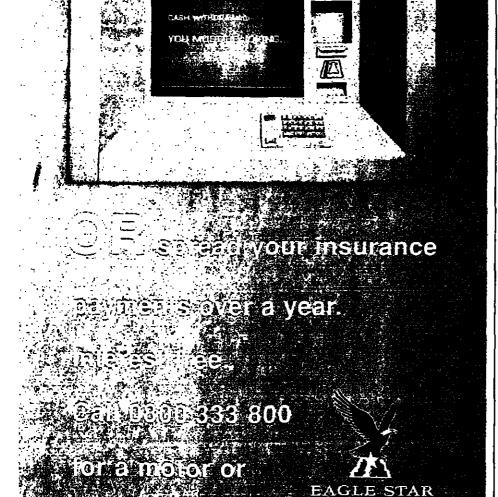
watermaker problems, while urging his crew to squeeze every knot of speed out of the 67footer in the north-easterly reaching conditions which are giving the amateur, fare-paying crews tropical temperatures and a T-shirt and shorts life aboard.

in the fleet. James Hatfield's largely disabled crew on Time & Tide are at the rear and also languishing is Boris Webber's Courtaulds International, still recovering from torn sails, a buckled spinnaker pole and, to complete their misery, nearly a

third of a day spent becalmed. About 100 miles covers the first 10 yachts. Ahead lie the vagaries of the Doldrums and it is then that the approach of the more westerly group, Golding and Walker, will be tested against the main bunch closer to the African coast.

Adrian Donovan, skipper of Heath Insured, soid: "The weather is getting hot and sleep-ing down below difficult. Tuday is tuck-box day. We each have our own jar of biscuits and choc hars. These are refilled every six days and a lot of bargaining and swapping takes place. It's the highlight of the week."





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Johnson.
Bowling: McGrath 23-9-43-1 (nbt); Retf-tel 14-5-34-1; S R Waugh 13-5-25-1 (nbt); McIrtyre 34-5-100-2; Hogg 17-3-69-1 (nbt); M E Waugh 12-0-42-0.
Umpires S Verkataraghvan (inc) and P Wiley (Eng). With Saurav Ganguly, who made 66, he put on 131 for the second wicket on a slow pitch.

Mongia's 137 not out

NDIA - First inclines

(Overnight 57 for 1) V Reithere c Ponting b Reiffel

حكرًا من الأصل

RUGBY UNION: Britain finally goes fully Continental as the Heineken Cup starts today. Chris Hewett reports

تعكذا من الأصل

Europeans' currency of progress

It may be tempting providence to say so, but not even the committee room politicians can mess this one up. English club rugby's first serious venture into Europe begins this afternoon and the fact that it is being undertaken more in the spirit of Kenneth Clarke than Michael Portillo suggests that the Heineken Cup is already being seen as a watershed for the game in the northern hemisphere. After years of half-baked in-

vitation competitions and last season's lightweight but ultimately thrilling inaugural Heineken tournament, won by Toulouse in vintage style, we are finally about to embark on a Euro Championship worthy of the name. Twenty sides from six countries, armed to the back teeth with some 180 full internationals and bolstered by mighty traditions of domestic achievement? The visionaries have been dreaming of this for

Visionaries like Brian Ashton, the coach of English champions, Bath, and an unashamed Europhile of long-standing. Ashton spent part of his coaching apprenticeship in Italy in the mid-1970s - "I remember working with Ivan Francescato when he was still in short trousers," he says, keenly aware that the respected centre will be one of the key playmakers for national champions Milan in the coming weeks of the campaign - and found it one of the most invig-orating experiences of his career. Now, he is looking forward to similar fulfilment.

"It's the only direction for rugby to follow if we're even remotely serious about competing on the world stage. At Bath, we've been pushing for a European dimension to the English season for as long as I can remember, hence our matches against sides like Dinamo Bucharest, Treviso and Toulouse. It's natural territory for

their campaign against the Edin-burgh district side today. "Thank God we're playing someone different for once," Ashton said. "We're away from the grind of over-familiarity for a few weeks and it's a wonder-fully positive feeling." Whether the Scots return home in a positive frame of mind depends on how they survive what is certain to be as severe a test of character as it will be of technique.

Scott Hastings, captain of a young and untested Edinburgh side, fears that having identified this tournament as a top prior-ity, Bath will be in unforgiving mood this afternoon. But even if the odd early match turns out to be embarrassingly one sided, the quality of rugby will leave the domestic leagues for dead once the cream begins to rise. If you require proof, cast an eve over the contestants in Pool D. the Heineken Cup's equivalent of the Group of Death.

Both of last year's finalists, Toulouse and Cardiff, are involved in the most competitive of the four pools and when the two sides resume hostilities at Les Sept-Deniers a week today, the cast will be close to international strength - Emile N Tamack, Thomas Cas-taignède and Christian Califano against Leigh Davies, Rob Howley and Jonathan Humphreys. But Lawrence Dallaglio's Wasps are also in the frame - they play Cardiff at Lof-tus Road tomorrow - as are Milan with their 17 Italian Test players and the wild cards from Munster. Wasps, well fancied for a place in the last eight, must go to Thomoad Park in Limerick next weekend and as Earle Kirton, the former All Black standoff and coach once remarked, "When you play Munster there you begin to appreciate how the Christians felt in the Coliscian."

. It looks every bit as tight in us, as it should be for any am- Pool B, where Leicester's unusually fragile start to the sea-



Treviso's players practise at Sofia Gardens, Cardiff, before today's European Cup match against Pontypridd

vulnerable to both Llanelli and Pau, who have not won the French championship since 1964 but are now equipped with the most calculatedly aggressive pack in mainland Europe. With Brive, runners-up to Toulouse in France last season, lying in wait for countrymen Laurent Benezech and Laurent Cabannes and the rest of the Harlequins multinational conglomerate in Pool C, and both Dax and Pontypridd looking to hurt Bath in Pool A, early bets on the shape of next month's quarter-finals are risky at best.

This being rugby, a degree of uncertainty remains; no one has the faintest idea how successful the second-string European Conference will be - the 24-club competition is also

their way around a variety of leading clubs next season are landmines all week. The wrangle over television coverage, or lack of it, continues in the wake of ITV's last-minute withdrawal while the legions of Irishmen playing their league rugby in England are still between a rock and a hard place. If they defy their clubs and play for their provinces in Europe, as several intend to do, they risk being held in breach of contract; if they take the opposite view, their international futures might fall prey to vindictive selectors.

There are even bigger issues lurking around the corner, great jagged fault lines, just waiting to split asunder and leave British rugby open to another seismin upheaval. The Euroenthusiasts who want to harness launched today - while organisers and players involved in the and use it to establish a Conti-The sense of anticipation is son leaves them seriously main event have been tip-toeing nental Super League for the burgh are right to ask how name of progress.

likely to meet stiff opposition from domestic protectionists, despite the £227m of Sky money thought to be on the table. Fran Cotton, the new Lions manager, has already con-demned the idea as a "disaster route for English rugby" while the Scots and Irish are certain to include once more in their traditional club versus province argument.

As usual, Cotton talks a good deal of sense. Worried by the numbers of non-English players holding down influential, not to say lucrative, positions in Courage League sides, he fears the trend will only gain momentum under a newly structured season based squarely on European competition. Likewise, the supporters of provinces and districts in Dublin and Edincomparatively tiny clubs like Shannon, Garryowen, Watsonians or even Melrose could live with Hariequins or Toulouse

European Cup

Pool A

Bath, Dax, Edinburg

Pontypridd, Treviso

Pool B

Pool C

Neath, Ulster

Pool D

Cardiff, Milan, Munster,

Toulouse, Wasps

European Conference

Pool A Agen, Glesgow, Montferrand Newbridge, Newport, Sale

Bridgend, Bristol, Castres, Dinamo

Pool C

Connects, Dunvarst, Northampton, Orrell, Padova, Toulon

Pool D

Bègles, Bourgoin, Ebbw Vale, Gloucester, London Irish, Swansea

on a week-by-week basis. Yet a fair and equitable distribution of television money would do more than anything to strengthen club rugby in both Ire-land and Scotland. Leading players might just be lured back over the Irish Sea or Hadrian's Wall, thus easing Cotton's concerns over an English domestic game effectively bijacked by foreigners. As David Robson, one of

Ashton's predecessors at Bath, used to say: "You never stand still in rugby. You either go forward or you fall behind." The Europhobes might not like the idea of a single currency in any sphere of activity. But among the top club sides, that currency already exists. It goes by the

Bradford make move for Carling

Rugby League

Dick Best, Harlequins' director of rugby, has attempted to quash speculation that the for-mer England union captain. Will Carling, may play for Brad-

ford Bulls next summer.

Bulls revealed that their cap-tain. Robbic Paul, has asked his Quins team-mate to guest for the Super League club, although they did not expect him to take up the offer. Best said: "Will has been

plagued with rugby league stories all his career. He's not gone yet, so why should he go now? It's the first I've heard of it today and I assume that I would be one of the first to know if he's going north."

As part of the deal in which the Bulls allowed Paul to play in the winter with Harlequins, Bradford have the right to approach any Harlequins player to

play Super League. Peter Deakin, the Bulls' marketing executive, said: "We know that Robbie has asked Will if he would like to play next summer but we have yet to receive any kind of definite answer."

Carling, England's most successful captain after leading his country to 44 wins in 59 matches, was once tempted by a £1m four-year offer to play for Leeds and also received an offer of £400,000 from Warrington.

In his autobiography, he said of the Leeds offer: "I thought about it but, deep down, I knew I wouldn't go." The Australian Rugby

League has launched a 12-team competition for 1997 in direct rivalry with a probable 10-team Super League. The ARL chief executive. John Quayle, said its Premiership would begin on 14 March. The ARL lost eight clubs to

Super League, which last week won an appeal against court orders banning it until 2000 and is now free to start in Australia for the first time next year.

While the full draw for next year will not be released until next week. Quayle said the season will kick off with a match between Parramatta and North

Workington have signed Craig Spark and David Baildon from Gold Coast on one-year deals for next season.

WEEKEND FIXTURE GUIDE

TODAY'S

NUMBER 10

The tournaments that Laura Davies, Britain's leading women golfer, will play in the next 10 weeks as she attempts to become only the second player, male or female, to top the money list on both the American and European tours.

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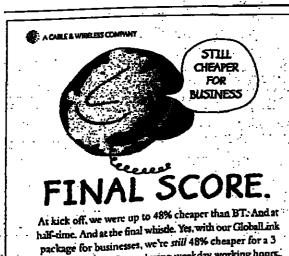








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FreeCall 0500 800125 bjert to a minimum (time; 1) shiprighton fire of £7.50 per quarter. All prices quarted ex. VAT. WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP SHOWDOWN: When Damon Hill sets out on his quest for the Formula One drivers' title tomorrow he will be aware of the Japanese County of the highlights will be aware of the Japanese Grand Prix's rich history of drama and controversy. Derick Allsop recalls some of the highlights

Suzuka set to become land of the rising son

istory offers Damon Hill mixed portents as he seeks to rise among the legends in Japan tomorrow. He will become Britain's eighth world champion and the first son of a title winner to reach the pinnacle of motor racing if he finishes in the top six or his Williams-Renault team-mate and only rival, Jacques Villeneuve, fails to win the Japanese Grand Prix. The odds, therefore, are over-

whelmingly in Hill's favour, but Japan has staged some of Formula One's more dramatic and controversial deciders and Hill will be acutely conscious of the possible

Circumstances conspired to bestow the championship on another Briton, James Hunt, in the wet and gloom beneath Mount Fuji 20 years ago. Niki Lauda, his eyes and nerves still vulnerable after that horrific crash at the Nürburgring, withdrew his car early in the race and with it any control over the destiny of the crown.

Senna's critics instantly condemned the Brazilian's impetuosity

Hunt, having forced a contest out of a seemingly lost cause - much as Villeneuve has this season - still feared he had not done enough amid scenes of extreme tension and confusion at the end. Eventually he was persuaded he had finished third, and won the championship.

Formula One returned to Japan after a 10-year absence in 1987, but at a different circuit. Suzuka, with its distinctly figure of eight lay-out, has been on the grand prix calendar

That inaugural race marked the end of another title bid by Nigel Mansell, who had been thwarted by a spectacular tyre blow-out at Adelaide the previous season. This time he was trailing his Williams team-mate, Nelson Piquet, and sought victory at Suzuka to sustain

During practice, however, he crashed heavily and, as he was lifted from the car and taken to hospital,



the watching Piquet knew the challenge had gone with him. Mansell missed the race, and the final grand prix, in Australia, and the Brazilian was confirmed as champion.

The following season McLaren dominated Formula One, another Brazilian, Ayrton Senna, taking on the maestro, Alain Prost. Senna's tardy start appeared to have yielded the initiative at Suzuka, yet his

brilliance in slippery conditions brought him through to claim his first title in style.

Twelve months on, the relationship between the two great drivers had deteriorated to the point of open conflict and when they locked horns at the chicane Senna's critics instantly condemned his impetuosity. The onus had been on the Brazilian to stay out of trouble and finish the race. Prost

climbed from his stricken car, his innocent countenance camouflaging deen satisfaction. With both of them out of the race, the Frenchman would have his third championship.

That expression changed to one of bemusement and alarm as Senna, far from abandoning the fight, frantically enlisted help to get going again and steered his damaged McLaren back to the pits.

3.40 WILLIS CORROON HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £6,500 added 3m 110yds

4.20 THELWALL TROPHY NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,200 added 2m 4f 110yds

Repairs completed, Senna re-turned to the track and carved his way through the field with the passion and commitment of a crusader rather than a racing driver. He duly crossed the line first, but to no avail. He was disqualified for receiving outside assistance and miss-

mg the chicane. Alessandro Nannini, of Italy, driving a Benetton, was awarded the

only win of his Formula One career and Prost was acclaimed champion. Time altered the perspective on that crucial incident, most observers coming to the conclusion that Prost had cunningly lured his team-mate into the trap. Senna always saw it that

way and denounced Prost as a Senna carried a sense of injustice through the following season when

rival. This time Senna had the advantage arriving at Suzuka, and this time he would win the championship if neither completed the race. No one discounted such a secnario because all were aware, as Senna was, that if the Ferrari went clear the McLaren might not be capable of catching it. Prost sprinted ahead at the start

and Senna, as if convinced he had a divine right to exact revenge in anyway he saw fit, continued accelerating towards the first corner, spearing into Prost's car. Both ma-chines were whirled into the gravel trap. Senna made his way back to muted, almost embarrassed celebration, Prost to declare that his former partner was welcome to the championship if it meant that much

Senna had far more to say another year on, after reclaiming the title in more genteel circumstances. He took the opportunity to tell the

Hill's victory over Schumacher in 1994 was the finest performance of his life

world he had deliberately driven Prost off the road in 1990 because he felt the governing body, and more significantly its president, Jean-Marie Balestre, had assisted his countryman's cause.

Hill, who inherited the mantle of Williams' senior driver after Senna's death in 1994, produced the finest performance of his life at Suzuka that season to beat Michael Schumacher and take him to what proved another controversial decider, in Australia.

Last year, having seen Schu-macher retain his title in the Pacific Grand Prix, at the Japanese circuit of Aida, Hill came back to Suzuland plunged to the low point of his career. He spun out of the race and admitted: "I wanted the ground to open and swallow me up.

Those will doubtless be his sentiments again tomorrow if he does not accomplish his championship

. . .

3.25 PERTEMPS HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000

added 3YO 2m

Olympians' attack on administrators

Chester join jet set

Sports politics

Olympic competitors have condemned the administration of British sport and called for immediate action to smooth the way to the Sydney Games of 2000. They want less bureaucracy.

more financial help for elite athletes, and a key role for the new United Kingdom Sports Council. The blueprint for success was drawn up by members of the Top 100 Club at a one-day seminar in London after Britain's poor performance in Atlanta.

It was chaired by the rower Jonny Searle, who won a bronze. and included three silver medallists – the athletes Iwan Thomas and Jamie Baulch as well as the yachtsman Ben Ainslie.

Top English players used to turn their backs on Chester Jets, but

now their coach, Mike Burton,

need not worry. The flood of

Americans allowed in "post-

Bosman" has seen Chester recruit five and now they are joint

aders of the Budweiser League. Burton said: "We always

found it difficult to recruit top

English players to Chester. We

knew the league's decision to go

from two to five Americans

The key acquisition last week

out of six and as co-leaders Lon- the next level."

Quotes of the week

would help us."

Basketball

RICHARD TAYLOR

A statement said: "The club are appalled by the fragmented and confused state of the structure of sport in this country. We see the bureaucratic and unprofessional approach from administrators as being detrimental

to success at international level. We call on sports bodies to consider streamlining the administration and on the Minister for Sport to give the UKSC immediately the resources and decision-making powers to carry out its appointed job of promoting élite sport."

The club also want the council, not the private sector, to run Britain's planned Academy of Sport. They believe more fulltime coaches are essential and expertise should be recruited

don Towers and Sheffield Sharks

have a free weekend, Chester will

open a clear lead by beating London Leopards tomorrow.

this season, having never beat-

en them before. But Burton

bristles at the suggestion that

anyone should be surprised.
"We're a good team with good players. When we beat New-

castle last week it was put down

to them having an off night and

In midweek Chester beat Sheffield for the second time

Tordo 3,40 Millies Own 4.20 Mr Conductor 4.50 Ela Man Howa 5.20 Nishamira

Left-hand, undulating course; run-in 325yds.

Course is four miles south east of Wrexham near jun A525 and B5069. Bus service from Wrexham station, ADMIS SION: Paddock 58; Course 54 (under-16s free all enclosures),

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: None.

0- BOXT AGAIN (\$36) [Made: 6 10 12.

0500- JILLS JOY (168) J Norton 5 10 12.. "M Dayer 0004R2 TIERH NA MARKA (11) J M Jefferson 8 10 7 ___ E Cadaghau (5) 030-5 VALLINGULE (14) Mass H Aragin 5 10 7 _____ J F Titley SISTER GALE Mis S Schith 4 10 6 ______ Recisend Goest

– 10 deciared – BETTING: 7-2 Le Baros, 4-1 Tigh-No-Alaza, 5-1 Vallingule, 6-1 Aust Like Dad, 8-1 Festion Loader, Bin Mata, Sister Gale, 10-1 others

111534- UNCLE BERT (138) G McCourt 6 10 9_

3.05 NUMARK HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £4,500 added 2m 1f

us being lucky. Let people go on thinking like that, it suits me." Apart from former Birmingham Bullet Billy Singleton, Bur ton recruited Hilliary Scott, Nigel

was former Newcastle Eagle Palmer and Ricardo Leonard Russ Saunders, the league's allfrom Irish clubs. Burton said: HYPERION time leading scorer. Last season "They could see the new arenas the Jets won just eight league over here and the crowd base and games. Now they have won five wanted the chance to step up to

I don't mind admitting we could have made a serious mistake. Frank Williams on his decision to let Damon Hill leave Williams-Renault Unless people see me on The Estonian team failed to the ski slope, they think I'm turn up for the World Cup an accident-prone berk. Eddie "The Eagle" Edwards on his projected comeback. left my racket, I knew it was I know he [Alan Shearer has another ambition

Hoddle, England coach.

We hope to surprise our Scottish friends on the playground. Mart Tarmak. Estonian FA vice-president, in his programme welcome. game against Scotland

As soon as the last one something special. Greg Rusedski, British No 2 now, to be looked on as the tennis player, after proworld No 1 [striker]. Glenn ducing a serve of 139.9mph - in the Peking Open. -

BANGOR

2.05 Sister Gale 2.35 Prince Skyburd 3.05

GOING: Good To Firm.

WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DAYS: None. LONG DISTANCE RUNNERS: Distant Hills (5.20) sent 214 miles by J Dodds from Chauon in Northumberland. 2.05 BBC RADIO MERSEYSIDE NOVICE HUR-DLE (CLASS E) £3,300 added 2m 4f

2.35 STADCO HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £5,500 added 2m 1f 110yds

5/POC-11 PRINCE SKYBURD (14) Mrs P Avson 5 10 0........ A Magaine – n cecased – BETTBNC: 6-4 Prince Silyburd, 11-4 Regal Romper, 4-1 Uncie Bert, 6-1 loughton, 8-1 Cosfty Chaptela

AND CONTROL OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERT - 9 declared -

Minimum weight: 10st. True handings weight: Lustremen 9s; 7b.
BETTING: 3-1 Phorare, 4-1 Tordo, 9-2 Stay With Me, 5-1 Windor Rose,
7-1 Saymore, 8-1 Royal Circus, 14-1 others

.0 FARLOVAC (10) R (see 10 10 12 ______ A Magai 50- THE LAST FLING (214) Mrs 5 Smith 6 10 12 ____ Echand G 8 55414-0 MSSTROY (70) Mgs M Miligan 5 10 7 _______ A S South — 8 declared BEJTING: 6-4 The Last Fing, 11.4 highland Way, 4-1 Mr Conductor, 12-1 Glamangilz, 14-1 Katovac, Baldspark Rose, 16-1 others 4.50 COCK BANK NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,500 added 2m 1f 202-21F ANABRANCH (5) (8)P) J M Jeferson 5 11 0 __E Callagian (5) 0:500-2 ELA MANI HOWA (7) A Bailey 5 10 12 _______ T Kent NUNSON R Dictor 7 10 12 ______ R Bailany NUMSON R Dictor 7 10 12 R Bulliany 003925- BEAU MATELOT (187) Miss M Miligan 4 10 11 ... A S Smith 606- BIYA (138) D McCarr 4 10 11. E Mis A Swinbank 4 10 11. – 13 deciaced – SETTING: 7-4 Anabrancia, 5-1 Els Max Hossa, 8-1 Contradica, Young Ben 5.20 BANGOR OPEN NH FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £2,000 added filles & mares 2m 1f

DISTANT HELIS (187) J Dodds 4 11 3

5 CASSANT WILE GERARD (46) A Ranghon 4 11 3 R William 5 MALAM RELL (45) W G M Turder 4 11 3 D Tore 5 LADY FOLEY (22) C Mann 4 11 3 D Tore 2 LADY REPECCA, 1539 M Reveloy 4 11 3 A L LEPY LOUISE Mrs M Reveloy 4 11 3 80 MSS NOWER (16) Mrs L Study 4 11 3 NIGHT ESCAPADE C Weedon 4 11 3.

HEXHAM (SIS)

2.20 Mr Reiner 2.50 Hobbs Choice 3.20 Scrabo View 3.50 Coureur 4.25 Rocket Run 4.55

GOING: Good To Plans.

Left-hand, undahning course. Run-in of Course is on minor road two miles south

of Hexham, Sigmposted from town, Hexham Station two miles away. ADMIDSSION: Club 55; Paddock Sti (OAPs 54), CAR PARK: Free BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Boethins WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN LAYS: BLOC BX

(3.50) was a Wolverhampton last Semrelay.
LONG DISTANCE RUNNERS: Canton
Venture (3.50) sent 255 miles by S Woods
Irom Newmarket in Suffolk. 2.20 NOVICE H'CAP CHASE (CLASS F) £3,600 added 2m 110yds 1 123 REVE DE WALSE (127) 9 11 124 Johanna 2 5/21- MER REMER (340) 8 11 1 K Jones 3 RO3 BOETHIJS (21) 7 11 0 ... P Waggiott B 4 345 DEAR EMEY (85) 6 10 13 ... Mr 5 Smires

/3P- HAZEL CREST (133) 9 10 11 _D Parks ~ 6 December — BETTREE: 7-4 Rave De Valse, 5-2 Mr Reiner, 5-1 Spring Loaded, 6-1 Dear Ently, 8-1 Boothies, .
Herei Crest

2.50 HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 3.50 NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E)

O KAPS LADY (21) 10 5 M Brewson (6) – 6 declared –

BETTING: 6-4 Hobbs Choice, 5-2 Short Goest, 3-1 Most Warted, 10-1 Vales Ales, Recall To Mind, 20-1 Kar's Lady

3.20 NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,200 added 3m 1f 2 312 SCRNBO VIEW (42) 8 11 5 R Supple

0/2 BARDAROS (16) (8F) 7 10 12. CLONBOCHE LUCKY 6 10 12 ... K Jones 5 P-54 GOLDEN SAVANNAH (11) 6 10 12 6 4-P4 MORE JOY (21) 8 10 12 D Be 7 5/2-5 ROYAL SURPRISE (6) 9 10 12 __T Reed 8 880 SMONEY TRACK (8) 11 107_

AEJ 1940: 11-5 Scrabs View, 3-1 German Legisnol, 7-1 Bardares, 8-1 Cloaroche Lucky, 10-1 Royal Sarprise, Mere Joy, 12-1 others

1 465 BLANC SENS (20) 9 10 12 Mr 9 Swiers 2 2-11 COUNDLR (77) (3) 7 10 12 Mr Swiers 3 FP- CEMERAL MICK (128) 7 10 12 Topic 4 KMR RDT 5 10 12 Mr Brusson 5 121 SUKS LEAT (11)6 10 12 July Member 6 F.21 SUPERIOR (8) (CO)8 10 12 ... M Postar 7 2 CANDON VENIUNE (C1) (8) 4 10 11 ... M Postar 8 S-P3 COURT JOHER (C1) 4 10 11 ... B Sharey

RETING: 8-2 Sees Leet, 3-1 Cardon Venter 4.25 HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,200 added 2m 4f 110yds 1 22-4 ROCKET RUN (128) (D) (BF)8 12 0 2 3FF WISE ADMICE (23) (D) 6 11.2 R Samity 3 48,P WILLESMANDE (17) (23) 50 50 6 A Database

9 JP4 P WHIRLING DOMENICE (36) 5 10 7 ...

- 3 declared -nerrows: 10-11 Rocket Run, 11-8 Wise Advice 4.55 HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,800 added 3m

5 PS-1 CROFFON LAKE (8) (CD) 8 10 2_B Storey - 5 decient - 55 d

HYPERION 2.25 Pocono Knight 2.55 Glenfinn Princess 3.25 Amber Ring 3.55 Wise Approach 4.30 The

Yokei 5.00 Fleur De Tal GOING: Good To Firm use, level with long stratghts, easy turns and a

one furlong run-in.

Course is on the A443 by the River Severn. Worcester (Foregate St) station a mile away. ADMISSION: Members \$12.50; Tuttersults \$9.50; Course \$5 (OAPs \$2.50). CAR PARK: Free; picuic area parking \$2.50.

SIS

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: None. WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DATS: None. LONG DISTANCE BUNNERS: Againtie (3.25) has been sent 132 miles by H Thomson Jones from Newmarket in Suffolk.

2.25 FEARNLEY AMATEURS' SELLING H'CAP HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,450 added 2m

etion, 6-1 Regte's MEL 7-1 Glowing Path, 8-1 Berni

2.55 MEB POWERLINE NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,200 added 2m 7f 3FT3-11 IMPERIAL VINTAGE (13) (0) V Williams 6 11 12...A P McCoy 5/4004 CMPO CASTAROM (125) Mas H Kright 7 10 12...A B Bradley 0-2324F SHIRAREE (1) M Pays 5 10 10 Ulstode 8 320P-1/3 GLEWINN FRINCESS (28) Mrs M Jones 8 10 7 D Byros

SETTING: 6-4 Shikaree, 2-1 Imperial Vintage, 4-1 Capo Centenum, 9-2

PO COPPER DUMINOND (35) D Burches 10 7 J Prior (7) B O FLOOD'S FANCY (28) L Barrett 10 7 ... - 12 declared -BETTING: 7-4 Agailetis, 7-2 Vernitors, 6-1 Apriler Ring, 7-1 Desert Scoot, 3.55 DOMESTIC HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) Minimum weight: 10st. Rex To The Rescue 9st 9th, Channel Pastume 9st 2th. BETTING: 5-4 Wise Approach, 5-2 Philip's Woody, 4-1 Rex To The Rescue, 5-1 Cleaned Pastime 4.30 APOLLO 2000 HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS F) £3,600 added 2m C-43.12 SUPER SHARP (22) (D) (SP) H Oher 3 11.10 _incqub (Oher 30.0131. LIDDESTONE LAD (358) R Order 6 11.7 _______ Calloty 5°C23-3 NORTHERN OF INSECT (13) (D) B Unedje 8 11.4 ____A P McCup 32414-F DAMAN CHANDE (10) (D) R Honges 10.11.1 T Descombe (3) 30/20-22 THE YONEL (0) B Baugh 10.10 S ____P Honley (5) 031/54 RED MATCH (363) (CD) R Honges 11.10.4 ____N Mores - 6 declared
BETTING: 9-4 Super Sharp, 4-1 Northern Optimist, 9-2 Ladestone Lad,
The Yokal, 5-1 Dann Chance, 8-1 Red Match 5.00 ASKO APPLIANCES HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) £5,000 added 2m 4f

BETTING 6-4 Wottestambles, 3-1 Acrow Line, 4-1 Tes, 6-1 La Mass

2.00: 1. FAIRY KNOCHT (Mr.C Bonner) 4-1 Ser. 2. Country Lover 12-1; 3. Nemocode 9-2; 4. Warm Spell 14-1. 16 ram. 174, 7. (R Harmon, East Everleigh). Tota: £4,70; £1,50, £2,40, £1,80, £3,00. DF: £30,20. CSF: £50.12. Tucse: £212.18. Tics £66,40. 2.30: 1 DANCES WITH DREAMS (J Red) 12-1; 2. Bintang Timor 1-2 lav, 3. Nariakin 13-2. 7 ran. ¼, ½. (P Chepple-Hyam, Man-tan). Tota: £6.20; £2.00, £1.30. DF: £3.80, CSF: £18.54,

Scarlet Planne 20-1; S. Perrott Jungle 50-1: 12 ran. 2-1 fav Tunnig Wheel. 1½, nk. (Saced bin Surbor, Newmarket). Totac £5.00; £1.80, £5.00, £5.00. DF: £183,40. 23.00, 22.00, 23.00, 23.00, 13.12, 23.00, 13.12, 23.00, 13.40; 1. TEST THE WATER (Pat Etidey) 12.1: 2. Manifesto 10.1: 3. Mencless Cop 4.1: 13 ran. 100.30 taw Blue Gobbin (4th). 1½, nk. (R Hamnon, East Everlegh). Totac 511.30; 52.60, 64.10, 52.10, DF. 518.20, 13.00, 1

3.05: 1. FATEFULLY (L Detroit) 6-1; 2.

CSF: £113.65. Theast: £536.34. The: 2549.40. NR: Tinkerbell. 4.15: 1. FLOCHECK (M.) Kinenel 9-1; 2, A.15: 1. FLOCHECK (M.I Kinenet 9-1: 2. See Freedest 14-1: 3. Benfiest 20-1; 4. Ingroup Island 7-1: 16 ram. 5-2 fav Northem Flaet (50). 3½, nk. (I Dunlop, Anundel). Teter £11.00: £2.30, £2.20, £4.00, £1.80. DF: £64.80. CSF: £110.23. Trieget: £2.209.76. Tot. £242.10.
4.45: 1. PFRINCE BABAR (R. Nullen) 3-1; 2. Rumston Music 2-1 fav; 3. Kings Wittness 5-1. 14 ram. ½, 1½, (I Barlis, Newtraniety, Total £4.40; £1.60, £1.30, £1.40, DF: £3.10, CSF: £9.04. This £6.70.
6.20: 1. SHADOW LEADER (R. Nullen)

CSF: £8.04. INC: £6.70. 6.20: 1. SHADOW LEADER (R Hugnes) 12-1; 2. Polydames 7-1 co fav; 3. Desce Scales 7-1 co fav; 15 rat. 7-1 co fav (R) Total £1.10 fat. 15 fat. 1-1 to fay nav-er Nean £519. 2. nt. (£ £380n, Creddlewom). Total £17.10: £4.80, £2.90, £3.50, DF: £44.30, CSF: £89.49. Incast: £591.31. Troc

lackpot: Not won; £5,909.80 carried forward to Ascot today,

Piecepot: £385.50. Quadpot: £64.90.

RACING RESULTS CARLISLE

2. Ret Frem 6-4 fav, 3. Lomond Lessie 20-1. 4 tan. 3, dist. (D Moffett). Total: £3.00. DF: £3.20. CSF: £4.83,

2.20: 1. SHOW YOUR HAND (M. Foster) 8-13 km; 2. Calder's Grove 14-1; 3. Kilonga 2-1. 4 can. 24; 11/4. (L. Lungo). Yote: £1.60. DF: £8.10. CSF: cs. 600 DF: £8.10. CSF: £8.80. 2.55: 1. JONAEM (K. JOHNSON) 3-1; 2. Haughton Lad 9-2; 2. Morrytill Gold 7-2. 6 ran. 15-8 tay Potago Of Gold. 1, 12. (Mrs. E. Stack), Totas: £4.30; £1.80, £2.70, DF: £3.80, CSF: £15.60.

3.30: 1. CHARRIMS GALE (L.Wert 11-4; 2. Political Tower 7-4 for; 3. Beldine 2-1. 4 ran. 7, 8. IMFS Spectrum 1. Tote: £4.20. DF: £5.00 CSS. 5; 4. OF: £5.00. CSF: £7.55. 4.00: 1. WELL APPOINTED (G Lee: 3-1: 2. Nonice 11-4; 3. Letin Leader 5-1. 5 ren. 15-8 fav Bolaney Gri (4th), ½, 15. (8 Mac-Taggaro, Tote: E4.80; £1.80, £1.90, DF: \$4.50, CSF; £10.99, NR: Stradfast Etre, 4.35; 1 KUSHBALOO (B Storey) 6-3 tax.

2. Dark Oak 5-1; 3. Supposin 10-1, 6 ren. 3, 11/2 (C Parier). Total £2.10; £1.10, £3.60. DF: £4.30. CSF: £8.72. 5.10: 1. NORTHERN FUSILIER IM NOW ton) 4-6 for; 2. Look Sharpe 16-1; 3. Lindejane 4-1, 7 ran, 2-4, 30. U leffusion). Toka: £1.50; £1.10, £4.00. DF: £14.80, CSF: £14.80

£11.45 Placepet: £181.20. Quadpot: £37.60, Place & £ 182.34, Place \$: £58.00.

HUNTINGDON PUNTINGDON
2.10: 1. MONTEL EDPRESS (C O'DIMENT
5-2 Ga; 2. The Lad 9-2, 3. Minor Key 12-1.
9 ran, Na, 7. (K Baley, Upper Lambourn), Yoloc
53.80; £1.50, £2.00, £4.60. DF: £12.50.
CSF. £14.75, Tno: £33.60.
2.55; £14.75, Tax 2.46: 1. JATHIS () Byrrel 1-4 law; 2. lean-telys 10-1; 3. Marner Micco 6-1. 8 ran. 12, dst. (Airs Merrita Jones, Lambourn). Total

5.30: 3. SCOUNDREL (COT OFFICE 13.8 Inc. 2. The Brownester 8 1: 3. Bombad# 25 1. 22 rat. 4, 17. (K Baldy). Toer. £2.50; £2.10. £1.50, £12.40. 0F: £11.70. CSF: £21.20. Text £192.90; £62.51 York 3.45 today. Place 6: £211.78. Place 8: £90.99 THE INDEPENDENT RACING SERVICES 0891 261 +

3.15: 1. BORN TO PLEASE IA MIGGI

Evens (av. 2. Able Player 2-1; 3. Gone By 5-2. 3 nan. Nk, 22. (P Hobbs, Minchesti, Tota;

ing, Alcester), Total: £4.90; £2.30, £1.40. DF: £16.20, CSF: £14.98.

4 ran. 8, 4, U Spearing, Alcoster's Valve 5-2. 4 ran. 8, 4, U Spearing, Alcoster's Total: £4.20. DF: £4.40, CSF: £7.61.

4.55: 1. WSE APPROACH & Urbayed 5-2 co for; 2. Meritine Dream 5-2 co for; 3. Change The Reign 3-1. 4 ran, 5-2 co for Gina Valo fell, Nr. 64: 0. Basey, typor Lambourn, Total £3.90, DF: £2.30, CSF, £8.35.

4.28: 1. STAR MARKET (AP McCo.) 11-2:

2.00. DE: ELEV. GOT. SOC. D. Brigsoner 7-2; 3.50: 1. FINE HARVEST (D. Brigsoner) 7-2; Lowewatte 7-2: 3. Register 3-1 ft fav.

£2.00, DF: £1,90, CSF: £3.17.

5 ran. 3-1 g fav Pierce (4m), 2½, ½, ½ 0 g



...D Parler

sport

Dettori hopes may go up the Spout

Racing GREG WOOD

Punters get the chance to increase their self-knowledge this morning, such is the disparity between this afternoon's two televised meetings.

There is Ascot, which offers useful horses, manageable fields and the clear hope of finding a winner or two without undue difficulty, and then there is York, where the smallest castlist for a televised handicap runs to 23 names. Study the options and ask yourself honestfy: am I an Ascot or a York person? The answer should reveal whether you have any serious wish to break even, or are simply one of the tens of thousands of mug-punters who are

the lifeblood of bookmaking. The problem, of course, is that while many of us like to think we are Ascot types, there is a strong Yorkist streak in most backer's souls which few can

suppress, not least when it is just Catwalk, his mount in the open-a fortnight since the bookies er; is possibly "over the top" acwere finally forced to cough up a few million pounds after 35 years of outrageous profiteering from Goliaths and Super

Today's card at the Berkshire track is not nearly so competitive as the one which Lanfranco Dettori went straight through 14 days ago, but while the Italian again has seven rides this afternoon, it is a measure of the magnitude of that achievement that his chance of

One of Martin Pipe's defecting

owners yesterday defended the

beleaguered champion jumps trainer. Pipe was left reeling af-

ter the Independent Twine

Manufacturing Company joined Darren Mercer and

George Bisgrove in removing horses from his yard, but Inde-

trainer, and in any case, Henry Cecil's High Roller (2.00) will

RICHARD EDMONDSON **NAP: Lord Olivier** (York 4.15) NB: La Menorquina . 0

ed on acrimonious terms.

Mercer withdrew his 10 hors-

es last month and shortly af-

terwards Pipe's stable jockey, David Bridgwater, resigned.

er, is possibly over the top according to Willie Haggas, her Dettori. Easycall, who has had a busy year, must be vulnerable under a 6lb penalty in the Comwallis Stakes, and while Carmine Lake ran particularly well to finish fifth in the Prix de l'Abbaye last Sunday, the proximity of that race must be a worry. The value alternative is Meliksah (2.30), who has finally start-

ed to turn early-season promise

into results and may have more

"As far as I am concerned

there isn't a problem at the sta-

ble. We haven't fallen out with

tory in the Princess Royal Stakes, but John Gosden, her trainer, hinted yesterday that Spout (next best 3.00) and Papering are dangers, and it is the former, another course-and-dis-

tance winner, who can prevail. Previous Ascot form also points to an excellent bet in the sprint handicap. Bolshoi has im-proved rapidly since Emma O'Gorman became his regular surely prevail, albeit at an unappealing price for punters.

Altamura, possibly Detton's second victory at the track, 13
days ago, was his finest perforemulating it is effectively nil. events at Ascot offer betting op- ternoon, will be strongly fancied mance yet. The bookmakers

Owner explains outflow from Pipe's stable pendent Twine's director Kei-But Maguire added: "I was th Maguire said: "There's no surprised that David Bridgwa-But Maguire added: "I was Martin. We simply want to be more involved with our horses."

The Tote has announced the retirement of its chief executive, ebb and flow of owners happens Brian McDonnell, after 15 years in the post. He will be succeeded by John Heaton, who will be appointed to the Tote

board for a year initially.

to reverse the form, but at around 10-1, BOLSHOI (nap 3.35) can again prove superior. As for York, Russian roulette

would be a safer gambling medium, though Nightbird (3.15) should win the Listed juvenile event, and it is worth noting that Alex Greaves is reunited with Pride Of Pendle in the nine furlongs handicap, in which several fancied runners have a dangerously high draw. The hopelessness of any attempt to solve the remaining races is demonstrated by the fact that in Timeform's adjusted ratings for the 4.45, there is no more than 8lb between all 27 runners.

British interest abroad centres on Longchamp, where Pe-ter Chapple-Hyam's Revoque to tackles the Grand Criterium. Further afield, Irish Stamp should secure another British win in the Czech Republic's Velka Pardubicka, in which last year's winner, It's A Snip, also has an excellent chance.

2.00: HIGH ROLLER, who already figures in betting for next year's Derby, should take this, although as he is unproven on soft ground it would be unwise to take short odds. The form of Barmun is does not read as impressively as High Roller's facile Yarmouth win, but he is progressive. $\Box\Box\Box$

2.36: Easycall, the Flying Childers Stakes winner, has the best win record of these, but there were signs in a disappointing run in the Mid-die Park Stakes last time that he may be past his best for the season. Carmine Lake, in contrast, seemed to put up an improved display when fifth in last Sunday's Prix de l'Abbaye, but may be flattered. It may be worth taking a chance that the lightly raced GRAND LAD, who wed early-season promise and ran too freely on his return from a

3.60: Altamura will be expected to with TIME ALLOWED, but the seection looked a little below-par that day and it is interesting that Michael Stonte, her trainer, considers it worth taking on Altamura again.

meak, will progress to take this.

 α

3.35: SWYNFORD DREAM put up market last time and can follow up.



3.15: Reliquary woo stylishly on his debut but ran poorly next time. At the likely odds, it may pay to side with the progressive NIGHTBIRD.

3.45; CUBAN REEF got up on the line to win at Sandown last time and is well drawn today. He appears likely to reach the frame.

4.15: In a 23-runner, 5f sprint here on Wednesday, the first five home were from stalls 5, 7, 9, 6 & 8. Cyra-no's Lad, drawn 10, will ensure plenty of pace in the middle of the track today and LORD OLIVIER. in stall 5, can take advantage. This six-year-old, unlucky when third to Seigneurial at Linglield last time attracts at 18-1 with Ladbrokes. מבפ

4.45: Royal Jade, from the in-form Barry Hills vard enters calcul But SOVEREIGNS COURT is CARD ing to hand and could be bette handicapped. Bookmakers are price ing him up cautiously, however, and morning odds look ungenerous.

ASCOT 2.00 High Roller 2.30 GRAND LAD (nap) 3.00 Time Allowed

- '' (u) (u)

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The second second

4.40 Dacoit 3.35 Swynford Dream GOING: Good (Good to Soft in places).

GOLING: GOOD (GOOD 10 SOIL IN PARCES).

STALLS: Round course — inside; straight course — stands side.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low numbers probably best on straight course

Right-hand course with testing uphill finish.

Course is near junction of A329 and A330. Access from MS (Jame 3) and M4 (Jame 6).

Helicopter-handing facility at course. Railway station (service from London, Waterloo) adJohn course. ADMISSION: Members \$16 (Junior Members 16-25 years, helf price); Grandstand & Paddock \$10; Silver Ring \$5. CAR PARKE: No's 1, 2 & 3 \$4, remainder free.

4.10 Wilcuma

ELADING TRAINERS WITH EUNNERS: J Dunlop — 26 winners from 143 runners gives a success ratio of 18.2% and a profit to a £1 level stake of £64.56; J Gooden — 23 winners, 135 runners, 17.2%, -\$14.85; E Hannon — 20 winners, 226 runners, 8.52%, -\$58.49; M Stoarte — 19 winners, 17.7% runners, 10.7%, -\$56.50.

ELADING JOCKETS: Ł Detton 17 of runners, 10.7%, -\$56.50.

ELADING JOCKETS: Ł Detton 17 runners, 10.7%, -\$56.50.

ELADING JOCKETS: Ł Detton 17 runners, 10.7%, -\$56.50.

ELADING JOCKETS: Ł Detton 17 runners, 225 runners, 255 runners, 255 runners, 255 runners, 257 runners, 2

2.00 AUTUMN STAKES (CLASS A) (Listed) £18,000 - 5 declared -BETYPIC: 4-7 High Roller, 7-2 Barnum Sands, 7-1 Catralit, 12-1 Blue Hiver, 16-1 Sheer Face

FORM CURDE High BOLLER started odds-on for his debut in a Yaman Salver on the strength of a tell home reputa-tion and duly confirmed it with an easy five-length wer from Teoffile. Henry Cacil said aftirmants he had exit given High Roter much work and he will certainly improve as a sense. The Generous coit is fixed to stay and thus race provides a good opportunity for him. Bernama Sands, by Green Desert out of Circus Pulme, has won his last two at Lingfield and Sandsen, winning a three-numer conditions such an the latter occasion by three lengths from Casense Pacadeso, but this is giving to be much toughor. Selections HIGH ROLLER-

2.30 WILLMOTT DOON CORNWALLIS STAKES (CLASS A) (Group 3) £35,000 added 210 51 124226 CMANNA CITY (21) (C) (Streen Guibby Ltd) B Guibby 8 12...

- 12 decimed BETTRIC: 9-4 Carmine Luius, 9-2 Check Band, 7-1 Bang, 7-1 Bangarii, 8-1 Head Over Heels, 30-1 Deep Finesses, Sabless, Seperiar Premium, 12-1 Guand Lad, 14-1 others
1998: Manni 2 8 12 W Caron 6-5 (6 148) 7 an

PORISE CHRISTINE LAKES saidle slipped in the closed stages of the Pitc do Mibbaye last week, but for which she might have finished third inclused of Rhb. It was a caching run against older horses in Group One company to any case and, seported to have come out of the mos well, Peter Chappte-Hyants Sky, already a Group Three winner in the Molecomb Stakes at Goodwood, can fand this plan. That in the Molecomb Stakes at Goodwood, can fand this plan. That in the Molecomb was Deserbased, who has since not well against Eveycolf in the Paying Chiders at Donnester and Balvannian Bounty in the Middle Park at Newtoniant. Deep Finesser has a Sto pull for just under two lengths with Carmine Lake (Durales City was fourth and is held), but that was my selection's first has since planing hesself at

particular problem with the ter left but I don't think that you Pipe stable. We have not part-can read too much into this. The

all the time.

3.00 PRINCESS ROYAL STAKES (CLASS A) (Group 3) EBC4 £50,000 filles & mares 1m 4f

ETTING: 7-4 Papering, 11-4 Attauras, 4-1 Sport, 5-1 Time Allowed, 7-1 Rassian Secure, 8-1 Priolica, 10-1 Poppy Caren, 14-1 others 1995: Lebibeh 3 8 6 W Carson 16-1 (J Dunico) 5 ran

PAPERIMS landed a Listed race at Chapstow in good style in July and has been second in each of her subsequent races – to Last Second in the Museou States at Soodwood, to Ney Change in the Yorkshise Clais
and (promoted from that) to hip Emme in the Prix Verimelia. The daughter of Shead was a neck in front of
Resistan Secons (demoted to soul) at York and is 5th better of other weight for age. Russian Soous vent
on to be fourth (disappointing) behand Eve Lane in the Prix Hell at Doccaser and that to Adhesiver in a Lasted race over couses and distance. Second in both those races was Time Adlowed, who is half by Altamuis and has filled the conver-up spot five times from sections this season. Altamura has the besting of my
selection through Russian Stones, but a fine through Min Alhains suggests Papering can come out on try
Spout, a course and distance wanter has year, has the does besting of Ninotebilas and Asterdia on hir van
in haydocks Lancashire Oaks. She was bestien two lengths by Last Secon in the Sun Chanci at Newmentel test week and a line Stonegh that real gives her a bit to find with Papering at the weights, although san
would help her chance. Roses in The Saxow has lettle chance at the weights with Altamusa compared to
Newcassie minung behand Hagealt, while Prioline and Poppy Carew were behand Time Allowed in the Galtrea States at York.

		3.35	WILLMOTT DOXON HANDICAP (CLASS B) £25,000 added 5f Penalty Value £18,238
-	1	3-35616	ROYALE FIGURATE (14) (D) (Craig Pearman) M Fetherston-Godley 6 10 0
٠.	.2	144501,	BOLSHO! (13) (CD) (Mrs Davel Brown) J Berry 4 9 7
	3	118000	70 THE ROOF (12) (D) (Ms P W Harrs) P Harrs 4 9 3
	4	604122	SAMBIJAR (13) (BF) (Margain (14) Miss G Valency 4.9 2
	5	200001	THORD (7) (D) (J R Good) M Johnston 3 8 12
	6		MUSICAL SEASON (21) (D) (P D Savill T D Barron 4 8 11
	7		PORTELET (147) (D) Marchane Smeding and Recraft R Guest 4 8 9
	ġ		MARITE EMBR (23)-00) (The Those Deers Recing) 8 Meetings 3 8 7
	ğ		LAGO DE VARANO (21) (D) (The PST Gougl R Whiteles 4 8 7Pat Edday 5 V
	10		SIR JOEY (US/O (21) (D) (Mis A & Sims) P Murphy 7 8 7S Drowne 4
•			
	ij		SWYNFORD DREAM (5) (D) (Qualitar Holdings Limited) J Bottomies 3 8 6
	12		LADY SHERRET (30) (D) (E.) Mangan) R Hollandhead 5.8.2
	13	126006	SRANGHAI GERL (2) (Made Sant) D Loder 3 8 1
	14	900022	60 HEVER GOLF (8) (D) (Hener Resing Club) T.J. Mangrapa 4 7 12S Senders 13
	15		PALACEDATE TOUCH (10) (I) (Laurel Cassure) Limited) J Berry 6 7 11 N Castista 15 B
	16		ROYAL DONE (8) (3) (3) (G W Jones) M Wares 4 7 10
	17		SCISSOR REDGE (17) (D) (Donald) Strikty) Biology 4 7 10
		٠	-17 declared -

Minimum weight: 7st 1000, True handkop weights Royal Come 7st 8th, Solssor Ridge 6st 10th. BETTING: 4-1. Samsur, 6-1 bituicus Season, Sayathord Drawn, 8-1 Lago Di Veraso, 10-1 Bolsi Hover Bolf, 12-1 Royale Figurius, To The Roof, 14-2 Fortalet, 16-1 others. 1988c Coustal Burl 3-8 7 K Desiry 8-1 (T D Barcel) 24 san

There is blody to be planty of pace on the staces side with Portalet (Heucassie winer less time) and Seye-ford Dream, successful at Mexicalet last time, down low. NUSSCAL SSISCAL, who is craim 1.0, made all up the staces after the Proteind at Domoster to bear Sylan Practice a length and a quarter, with Lugo DI Vazano a short head beck, in treat, Bolelot fifth, Sir Jony mith end Ludy Shariff 20th of the 21 run-hers. Diend Barron's four-year-did again can well when heading the far-side group in the Ayr Gold Cop, exen-tually financing severats to stablemate Coastal Blod, with Bolehot just behind in eighth, Lugo Di Vazano 1.1.0:

_			
. [1.10	MITRE RATED HANDICAP (CLASS B) £20,000 added 1m 2f Penalty Value £12,242	
1	815-002	MEDALLE METABLE (149) (C) (D) (James Hartness) J Duntop 4 9 7	
 2	02 0551	WECUMA (21) (2) (1 G Werner) P Waltin 5 9 0	
3	302030	HOH EXPRESS (29) (D F Allood) Batting 4 & 13	
4	111040	NINSA (USA) (IA) (D) (Mrs D R Schreiber) M Johnston 4 8 12	
5	013520	DALINT (13) (Lord Hartington) J Gosden 4 8 12 Dettori 3	
6	131245-	ALIVATED (335) Wass L Violani Mass G Kelleway 4 8 8	
7	15-0450	LONGERTO (35) (Sate) Al Homezi R Hannon 3 6 4	
8		PROPER BLUE (USA) (21) (M.) Leggl T Milt; 3 8 2S Senders 6S Senders 6	
胆	TW0: 3-1	Wilcome, 7-2 Medallie Williaire, 5-1 Daunt, 6-1 Minis, 13-2 Hob Express, 9-1 Proper	
	e. 10-1 at		

1999: Quandary 4 8 7 Pat Editory 9-2 (H Cacil) 14 ran 4.40 HYPERION STAKES (CLASS B) £12,000 added 2YO 7F Penalty Value £7,178M 3 Kinane 4 ...W R Swinburn 3

BETTIME: 2-1 Deceit, 9-4 General's Pet, 11-4 Andreyev, 5-1 Shil-Take, 8-1 Ursa Major, 33-1 Pedant 1995; Bandon Magic 2 8 13 W R Swinburn 10-11 () Balding 4 ran

	5.15	DUKE OF EDINBURGH HANDICAP (CLASS C) £ 1m (straight) Penalty Value £9,456	12,000 added
1	00-0000	NIGHT DANCE (144) (CD) (6 V Wight) 6 Levis 4 10 0	A Wheten (3) 3
2	3/10-500	TREDEPLIN (USA) (30) ON Tabori N Calastran 4 9 12	
3	462620-	THAT OLD FEELING (386) (D) (485 P Sherwood) J White 4 9 11	B Doyle 25
4		MESET WINK (USA) (18) (D) (Mrs Dyanne Benjamin) G L Moore 4 9 11	
5	140603	WAREEL (USA) (58) (D) (Mrs J M A Churston) S Dow 4 9 8	Redd 24
6	52-13	MEDIEVAL LADY (112) (Summerine Stud) Baking 3 9 8	.Hartin Dayer (5) 8
7	21350	CONSORT (14) OK Abdulles G Herwood 3 9 7	# R Swinturn 2
8	300111	KOATHARY (USA) (16) (D) (E.J.S Gadaden) L.G Cottes! 5.9.5	K Dayley 12
9	344310	ADMIRALS FLAME (13) (D) (Hintestram Racing) C Wolf 5 9 4	P Clarka (7) 24
10	141006	MAPLE BAY (15) (D) (Roy Metthews) A Balley 7 9 4	6 Facilizator (5) 1
11		THREADNEEDLE (USA) (22) (D) (The Queen) Lord Hurrington 3 9 3	
12		ALHABIR (USA) (43) (Hamdan Al Makasum) C.) Benstead 3.9.2	
13	250053	DAMEBOLD (14) (D) (The Dreem Team) M Chennon 4 9 1	R Perham 23 Y
14	2-00603	ZAJKO (USA) (13) (O) (Sr Roger G Stible) Lady Hernes 6 9 0	Flynen (3) 5
15		HIGH PREMIUM (15) (D) U C Parsons) R Fahey 8 8 12	
16		TOWOURS REVIEWA (24) (CD) (James Furlong) J Peace 68 1.1	
17	010001	ARTECL DAVE (21) (D) (S P Lansdown Racing) M Heaton-Files 4 8 1D.	S Drowne 18 V
18	501053	BLDE FLYER (23) (D) (B Scott) R Ingam 3 8 10	D R McCabe 20
19		COMMICHE COMPANSON (49) (D) (Hever Record) T J Nacignon 6 8 9	
20	310126	BALANCE OF POWER (18) (3) (John Paker) R Aleksest 4 8 9	Sanders 9
21	54300	A CHEF TOO FAR (95) (Hon Manyin Greenvery) R Rove 388	R Hardin (3) 10
22	600203	APACHE LEN (USA) (16) (Roy Talano) R Harmon 3 8 6	_Dense 07NeE 17 B
23		THOMN DE COOL (10) (D) (R F Kilby) R Allehatst 5 8 6	T Quien 6
24	4-0540	ALSAHEB (USA) (5) (Ms S Livers) W Mut 3 8 2	N Person 21
25	660010	SUPERIOR FORCE (18) (D) (Copylores Ltd) Mass B Sanders 3 7 12	N Adems 18

- 25 declared -BETTING: 6-1 Threadmendle, 7-1 Medical Ludy, 8-1 Artful Dame, Floran de Cool, Zajko, 19-1 Keethary, 12-1 Constort, High Prevalent, 14-1 others 1998; Nega Damos 3 9 9 A Whiten 9-1 (6 Level) 22 mn

LONGCHAMP – Sunday

2.30 GRAND CRITERIUM (Group 1) 2yo colts & filles 1m Penalty Value £131,752 3 41 KMG SOUND (Sheuh Mohammed) J Gosten (GB) 2 9-0. T James 1
4 3212 REFERENDUM (Hejhciere Razing) G Lews (GB) 2 9 0 Pet Eddery 1
5 123221 NOMERE PREMIER (Marquess de Montiela A de Roye-Oupre 2 9-0. Pagino 1
6 1121 LE TOPOLINO IS Nikolov / P Bogoev (Bu) 2 9-0. M Galebov (
7 11112 WILD THYME (S Nikolov / P Bogoev (Bu) 2 9-0. B Yeaminon v
8 1 CLYMPIC MALESTY (N Pharacri C O'Ener (M) 2 9-0. D Pesilor :
9 111 REVOQUE (R Sançsier) / Chapple Hyari (GB) 2 9-0. J Roid
BETTING FORECAST: 6-5 Revoque, 7-2 Nombre Premier, 4-1 Ning Sound, 6-1 Majorien, 9Aneysez, Referendern, 14-1 Olympic Majesty, 68-1 Le Topolino & Wild Thyme (coupled)

WILLMOTT DIXON HANDICAP - 10-YEAR-TALE

get the favoritie: 8 A 8 7 14 520 2 A 21 125

A = attandement Stoe Berry 25-1 (1990) A = attandement; R = joint feetral air D Basioth (2): Perfect Timing (1986) & Lugana Beach (1989) togs & Cauthon (2); Perfect Timing (1986) & Stoe Berry (1990).

(a place in battleg: 2 A 2 D O 34 3

priced without Pariett Travels 13-2 (1986)

refit or loss to £1 stake: Favourites £3.50. Second Favourites +£8.50

age of stagers piaced 1st, 2nd or 3rd in previous race: 75%

Race formerly run as the Boyls Handican

A CABLE & WIRELESS COMPANY

THIS WEEK, BT **CUT THEIR PRICES** BY UP TO 25%. AND WE'LL STILL BE UP TO 48% CHEAPER.

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Prices and sorings compared against BT+ have note, Sam to typin, weekslops.

Calls are subject to a minimum charge of 4.2p. Global Link sarings are available a subscription for of £7 50 per quarter. All prices quoted ex. 1:47

4.15 Lord Olivier 4.45 Sovereigns Court 5.15 Blessingindisguise 2,45 Hidden Meadow (nb) 3.15 Mighthird 3.45 Cuban Reef

GOING: Good (Good to Firm in places).

STALLS: St. 67 & 77 - stands side; round course - inside.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: Middle to high numbers best for 68 & 77; low best in 3.45 race.

Lath-hand, U-shaped course. Fist and ideal for the powerful galloger.

Course is one mile south of city on A1038, York station one mile away. ADMISSION: Course \$30 (16:25 year-olds \$13); Tattersalls \$12; Silver Bing \$5 (OAPs \$2.50); Course \$3 (OAPs \$1.50). Accompanied under-16s free all enclosures. CAR PARK: Free.

LEADING TRAINERS WITH MUNNERS: J Gooden - 25 winsers from 121 cumers gives a success ratio of 21.5% and a loss to a 21 level stake of 513.44; J Dumley - 19 winners, 102 cuapers, 18.6%, 525.56; M Johanston - 14 winners, 143 numers, 9.9%, 555.56; B Hills - 12 winners, 114 runners, 10.5%, 546.89.

I EADING JOCKETS: Pat Eddery - 44 wins, 230 tides, 19.1%, 52.98; L Dettori - 43 wins, 196 fides, 21.9%, +524.74; W Carson - 33 wins, 225 rides, 16.9%, 533.52; W R Switzburn - 21 wins, 157 rides, 13.4%, +5.0.13.

BLINDERED FURST TIME: Foist (3.45); Automina Melody (4.15); Best Of All (4.45), Dabby Was from a 15. BILINGERRO FIRST TIME: Foist (3.45); Automias Mesony (4.15); Sect Ur An (4.45), Double Bile (visored, 4.15).
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Garnock Valley (4.15) & Master Bevelod (3.45) both won at Haydock on Sunday; Master Bevelod (3.45) won at Warwick on Tuesday.
LONG-DISTANCE BIINNERS: Astract (4.15) & Friendly Brave (5.15) have been seen 376 miles by Miss Gay Kelleway from Whitemake, Donset; Durham (2.16) sent 376 miles by H Howe from Caldordividge, Devon.

2.15 EQUITY FINANCIAL COLLECTIONS HANDICAP (CLASS D) £10,000 added 1m 6f Penalty Value £8,480 2.15 EQUITY FINANCIAL CULLEU | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |

20 DALLEO COMPANS TAMES AND A 20 declared —
PETIPAC: 7-1, Research 1, 15-2 Sid For Gold, 9-1 Demappel, 10-1 Michael Blee, 12-1 Michael TerPeter, Durham, Highlying, 14-1 East De Column, Meets to Be, Tumpole, Michael 18-1 others
1896; Tutor Island 5 S S I Detron 9-2 (C Bottain) 13 san

2.45 EBF SURFACHEM MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £8,000 added 270 1m Penalty Value £8,212 2YO Im Pervalty Value £6,212

ARISAIS phr. Isma MocPherson P Caher 9 0.

65 6000 JUDGE (24) UN Brown M Hormond 9 0.

6 HADDEN MESDOW 900 (Bodge Standardge I Barbing 9 0.

6 MORRE (34) Dies D I Woodd M Brigain 9 0.

6 NORRE (34) Dies D I Woodd M Brigain 9 0.

7 POLARGE (3 Beggrid) T D Earnon 9 0.

6 RUSSIAN ASPECT (14) (ROM Roung) M W Eastaby 9 0.

7 TEOFRIJO (25) (8 E National D Labor 9 0.

7 HEFFRINGE (12) (Trook Saher) M Liber 8 9.

8 MYSEQUE AIR (25) (1 A Scriben) E Wejens 8 8.

SAAFEDA (Shalib Allered Al Mastonary I Gooden 8 9.

11 declared — _# | File 11 SETTENG: 9-4 Teorific, 11-4 Seafoya, 7-2 Hidden Mendon, 8-1 Hadid, 10-1 Mystique Mr., 12-1 Moirie 14-1 Hadid, 19-4, ethers 19-5: Countail 2-9 0 L Deport 1-2 (/ Gosden) 8 rat 3.15 COLDSTREAM GUARDS ROCKINGHAM STAKES (CLASS A) (Listed race) £15,000 added 2YO 6F

Resounder (ISA) 28 11 L Destor 8-4 U Goeden) 5 ran

RELIQUARY, who was ridden as though he was enother Nijinsky on his debut at Haydock, was not the seme colt in the Champagne Stakes at Doncaster next time. Pat Eddey had the mount at Haydock and he seemed to know he was on the wirner even before the stake opened. Refluency won without breaking sweet and the form has been nicely boosted since by Tomba (third), who beat the useful Speedball at Saksbury. Reliquary lost his chance at by Formbe (third), who best the useful Speedbell at Salisbury. Reliquery lost his chance at Doncaster in the preliminaries – the Zitzal colt getting worked up in the peddock and in the statis. Lest of four to Bahhare there, Reliquery must be given another chance. Mightibird has the look of My Branch, who was trained by Baory Hills last year to win the Firth of Clyde Stakes efter nursery wins. Hills's in Command was second at Doncaster so he knows what Nighthird has to beat. The filly estimated from a rest to win two nurseries and Doncaster superiority over Naked Poser and Blues Queen was excanded when she defied Set 7th at Newmarket. For Olid Yisses Salise had it to do with a penalty behind Conspirator in the Harry Rosebery at Ayr. He's tough but fedded in the closing stages over six furiouss in Mass Starrends. Rosebery at Ayr. He's tough but feded in the closing stages over six furlongs in Miss Stam-pen's numery at Newtrastert in August. Selection: RELIQUARY

	3	.45	CROWTHER HOMES HANDICAP (CLASS D) £12 added 1m 1f Penalty Value £10,800	,000 C A
	1	003619	SEVENTIERNS LUCKY (12) (CD) (D M Carrents) Bob Jones 4 10 0	N Wigham 23
_	. 2	600011	MASSIER BENELED HI (CD) (No E J Williams) P Evers 69 13 (4ed)	
	3	212320	TROJAN RISK (21) (D) (Inn McCarthy) G Lews 3 9 12	R Hagbes 17
8	4-	<u>112186</u>	TROUNN RESK (2D) (D) (Itm McCarthy) G Lews 3 9 12 DVRLING CLOWER (23) (CD) (P A Bogham) R Bestman 4 9 10	H Bestimen (5) 9
-	5	57-6728	SHEWING EXAMPLE (62) (D) (BF) (D M Ahed) P Meden 4 9 10	
_	6	523445	CASTRACTIC LADY (21) (Ats Sylat Hone) / L Bire 498	19 شروما المست
3	7 .	624511	LADY OF LEISLIFE (DSA) (16) Oiles Anns L Sandess) Mes J Cacil 4 9 8.	6 Berdirell 18
-	8	602310	PREDE OF PERDLE (\$3) (CD) (Als. Linda Miller) D Nicholis 7 9 7	Allex, Organies &
	9	211336	TALATHACIH (FR) (LS) (Mis Christine Ranson) C Dwyer 4 9 7	X Fellon 21. Y
	10	400002	DREPARS SHO (2) (T 9 Prize) P Bosen 8 9 6	R Cochases 28
	11	021D43	KING CURNN (USA) (12) (Hugh O'Donnell) D Haydn Jones 5 9 4	D Herdson 11 B
3	12	SERVICE	CLORIANA RS (D) (D S W Rincker) Lady Hernes 4.92	14 High 14
_	13	3/0040-	TIME LEADER (469) (The Sig Time Boys) R Dickin 4 9 1	7 Carroll لـــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــ
4	14	ODBOBO	FLIRE MOPE (USA) (LIS) (Elte Recing Club) N Tinder 491,	Almee Cook (5) 5
	· 15	015192	MEPHISINE AIR (26) (TA Scotherol E Whomes 4.9.1	
- :.	.16	434013	HARVEY WISTE (11) (The Harvey White Portnership) J Peace 4 9 0	M Bakri (5) 8
	17	300-134	SHAFFISHOTES (137) (P Dauktson-Brown) Miss M Roveley 4 9 0	Deen McKeown 12
7	18	000000	RAMBO WALTZER (15) (Keystone Racing Club) D Nichols 4 8 11	_io iluman: (7) 13
	19	Q50Q0-	RAFTERS (885) At B Caner) J.M. Bradky 783	7 Sprake 25
	20	0/-365	GLEN CAPRIOCK (19) (Robert Aird) D Nicholls 4 83	 & Duffield 1 6
í	21	01346-0	QUR MARK MAIN (178) (Christopher Cooks) R Whiteler 6 8 1	F Harton 4
9	· 22	601F00	BROUGHTON'S PRIDE (85) (Mrs Janet Monis) J L Eyre 5 7 12	T Williams 20
1		000145	LAPO-LAPU (36) (Durstern French) M Camecho 3 7 12	
5	24	153150	GOLD DESIRE (2) (C) (D) (RF) (Rorthgale-Racing Club) M Sattain 6 7 1	2_N Valley (3) 10
8		025541	CLEAN REEF (24) (X L West) W Museon 4 7 11.	
2	26	150533	POIST (24) (D F Spence) M W Enstarby 4 7 10 HABETA (USA) (15) (R D Biolemons) J W Wass 10 7 10	R Kermedy 2 B
ı	27	145000	HMBETA (OSA) (15) (R D Biolemetro) J W Wees 10 7 10	D Weight (3) 1
•			- 27 deciared -	
٥.	Milita	يادد ميرا	pi: 7st 10lb, Tom handisup weight: Habeta 7st Sib.	
7	Œ	THE 10	Liady of Laleure, Moster Bevoled, 11-1 Pride Of People, 12-1 Here	ry with Talendari,

Settings: 10-11. Lindy of Laisure, Neutric Percent, 17-11. High of Peachs, 12-1 Hervey Wilder, Taintimith, 14-1 Calem Reef, Impulsive Ar, King Caren, Lape-Lape, Stating Descape, Trojes Risk, 18-1 Seventeers Lack, Shadishayes, 18-1 Descare See, Feste, 20-1 Gion Genrock, 25-1 others. 1985: Swanteers Lack, Shadishayes, 18-1 Descare See, Feste, 20-1 Gion Genrock, 25-1 others. 1985: Swanteers Lacky 38 10 M Wigtom 14-1 (Bob Jones) 25 cm.

Foliat has a fine chance at the weights and the first-time blinkers may also put an edge on lyin, Third to Ochoe Rics here (77) and third to Trathinal from a bed draw at Beseriey over an extended mile, he will needly with it ruly storing this The ground may not be feat enough for Pedica Of Pendica, highly tried at Accos after her wan at Ayr from Hawkeley HM with Ring Curan (11th) beaten 11 lengths, This game mere is in top form, but she's beneate on her Thirs's accord to Society Girl because LAPU-LAPU was hempered when a close fifth and now Sib better off. Seventheers Lacky won this race last year and lovis bound to go well after his second course win under 9st 120 instruorsh. He meets proke for Pendic and Massing Beweled (1.11n) on 3to better ferms and was in a much stronger see at Accor afterwards. Meeter Beveled (1.11n) on 3to better ferms and was in a much stronger see at Accor afterwards. Meeter Beveled ran woll in that Accor see won by Armack Ajeeb and has confirmed the promise with wirs at Haydock and Warwick Lady Of Leisure is an improved fally who best the consistent Mo Ciches at Porterior last time, while Trojas Rick seems to face a seem test at the weights.

I ANDRES SURS ASSESSMENT AND			
2 05 6000 JUSE (24) U M Brown M Harmond 9 0 R Codemon 4 0 HANDI (24) (Hardan Al Maleurin D Monley 9 0 R Codemon 4 1 M Hills 11	- 17	4 4 6	CORAL SPRINT TROPHY (HANDICAP) (CLASS C) £20,000 added 6f
	. 15	וכבו	£20,000 added 6f
3 O HUDON (SO) (GEORGE Standardge) (Batching 9 0	. L		
5 HIDDEN MEADOW (90) (Georgia Selemana) 1 Haman 3 5 HIDDEN MEADOW (91) (Hoods) M Brown 9 9 HIDDEN (14) (Mac D J Hoods) M Brown 9 9 HIDDEN (14) (Mac D J Hoods) 9 HIDDEN (14) (Mac D J Hoods)	ં ૧.	104420	COSMICO'S LAD (23) (CD) (BIF) (M M Foulger) C Dieger 7 10 0
5 8 NOSEE (34) (MES UT) PROCES IS A CO	3	224204	DOUBLE SPLENDOUR (21) (CD) (textshire Record Cash) P Feigure 6 9 10
5 6 NORRE (LA) (Nics D / Woods) M British 9 0		22123	DOUBLE BLUE (38) (D) (S W Huggies) M Johnson 7 9 9
6 POLARIZE G Beggraff TD Barron 9 0 7 O RUSSIAN ASPECT (CA) (ROM ROUTE) M W Extrady 9 0 R Parish (5) T 8 2 YESPELIO (25) (B E Neitern) D Loder 9 0 R Payers 5 R Sheet 5		(124100)	DURINE MINE (30) IN IN MINESTER IN ANTICOLOR
S TROPING (25) (RENEGRY) U VIUS 3 VIII TO TO THE RESERVE TO THE RE	- 4	· 130040	TEDBURROW (21) (2) (2) (2) (2) (2) (3) (4) Mis A Neughbon 4 9 4
8 2 TEOFILIO (25) (B E Meiser) D Loder 9 0. R Sevent 5 0 NEEPSAGE (12) Tiron's Barker) M Liber 8 9 . R Sevent 5 1. Chemock 2	. 2	560616	SERENGUIDAL (S) (D) (The PET Group) G Herwood 4 9 4
9 O RESPANCE (12) (Trever Parier) M Usins 8 9		eenan)	PORTURNID 250 ATM (C) H Province S Browns 4 9 2
10 3 MYSHQUE AR (23) (1 A Substitute of 1 Oceans A 9		ANNEAR	ASTRUC (12) (City Tecomb) Mass Gay Nelsony 5 9 2
11 SAAFEA Shelo Alfred Al Market	· •	BUUGUG	ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPERTY OF
11 decisrad - BETTRNS 9-4 Teofisio, 11-4 Senseys, 7-2 Hidden Mandon, 8-1 Hackel, 10-1 Mystiquan Air, 12-1 Holyis,	8	. 0-44000	STYLISH WAYS (38) (37) (sen Hail Raiding) Mass S Hail 49 1
The state of the s	9.	500001	GAZHOCK VALLEY (6) (D) (Robert Aut) Sery 5 9 0
RELIEFE 3-4 (former True general	10	052122	MR BERGERAC (20) Eth (P R John) B Reling 5 9 0 T Sprake 1
14-1 Hadid, 18-1 piless	- 77	201450	BOLLIN JOANNE (21) (D) (Linky Westhook) T Sessetty 3 9 0
1995: Committel 2 9 0 L Degron 1.2 (I Gosden) B raff	- #	231130	DON'T CHRE (B) (C) (C) C McLaren) May I, Person 5 8 13
3.15 COLDSTREAM GUARDS ROCKINGHAM STAKES (CLASS A) (Listed race) £15,000 added 2V0 6F	- 12	200100	DOM: Care fold first for the part of the
COLOREDEAM GUARDS RUCKINGIAM SIACES	13	. 403002	BAJAN ROSE (8) (D) (C McKernel) M Biandhard 4 B 13R Codyston
3 15 000 added 270 07 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18	14	3115	PENEL D'AZIR (USA) (42) (D) (GP) (Steich Motormatech D Loter 3 8 13 R Maghes 1
3.15 COLDSTREAM GUARDS ROUGH 2YO 67 (CLASS A) (Listed race) £15,000 added 2YO 67	46	MMM	TOUGHDOU (7) (thors of the Late Mr F Tydesley) Miss L Social 5 8 9
CLASS A) (Lates Index) Bury J Berry 8 11 Corter 4 1 145115 FOR OLD TRIES SAIC (23) plus Bright Bury J Berry 8 11 B Region 1		00000	SAURT EXPRESS (10) (C) (D) (D S Hall) Mrs M Reveloy 6 8 9
1 145115 FOR OLD TIMES SAVE (23) (Ars Bridge Burdy 1 987) 8 11 2 14 RELIQUARY (USA) (23) (3) Shekh Motammed) D Loder 8 11	70	UUUUS	Sell Edward Ling (b) to Create and the control of t
2 14 REIGHARY (USA) (29) (3) Shekh Nobermad () LOSS 5 11 1 Weever 5 E 112245 WICHING MARCH (42) (3) (Van Cuckin) & Meetin 8 11 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	1,7	321000	BB020E (8) (C2) (BF) (Tony Favostt) Mrs J Ramaden 6 8 8
3 113246 VECTORY DARGER (42) (3) (Van Cudin) 9 Marcan 8 11 4 1411 NOVINGO (11) (3) (5 P Train) 8 High 8 6	18	610200	AMERICAS MERCOTY (6) (D) (Not B D Georgicul S Bosong 3 8 7
4 1451 MICHIGARD (11) (D) (S P Tindad B Place C	19	017200	BALLO TREAMICO (21) (CA (1) G Growni T D Ramon 5 8 8
E 1775 SAMESTAR COUNT (77) (II) (I A SCOTTER) E WOMEN S	20	MALE 2	LORD OLIVER (23) (D) (Mass V R Janes W Janes S & 5
2 1329 Statistical prant (and not to 2 percent)	ىم	200	CHRICITURE (LG) (D) (White Bear Limited) G Leves 3 8 5
19.2 For Old Times Sales, 7-1 Victory Dencer, 10-1 Sam-	21	any (p	Children froi ful fulm one reserve CD 2
- 5 decision - 5 d	- 22	640511	CRETION GET (21) (D) (T Clarke) N Literación 5 8 Z
arrest Saleit	- 29	140003	MAN (USA) (15) (D) ((1840) Series) M Uster 7 7 13 R Street

- 22 declared BETTING: 7-1 Double Spicodom, 8-1 Mr Bergerac, 9-1 Astrac, 10-1 Pearl D'Azur, 11-1 Bollin Josepa, Cretne Gift, 12-1 Pale Bisnos, 14-1 Bajen Sose, Garnock Velley, 16-1 Baszne, Cyrano's Lad, Lord Othiar, Seigneurial, 20-1 Bayin, Caricature, Saint Duyrean, Tediterrow, 25-1 others
1995: Double Bounce 5 8 8 L Dettor 3-1 (P J Majer) 23 pm

1999: Double Bounce 5 8 8 L Dettort 3-1 (P) Mohin's 23 an FORM GUIDE

MR BERGERAC, seemingly well placed in stall 11., books the right choice. He can reverse Newmarket form with Pearl of Azar and the 3th rise for his Ayr Gold Cup second to Coestal Stuff is in no way severe. Double Splendour, fourth at Ayr, is drawn high today, along with Tedhurrows and Prub Blanco, but Bollin Joannes, who ran well on the unlawoured far side at Ayr, has every chance today from stall severe. Belan Rose wasn't besten far at Ayr when also techng on the far side. She is nicely drawn today and is in good heart after beating all except Pends Ca at Newmarket. Astrace, besten only three lengths in the Wolangton and now 5th lower, would have found the trip (57) too sharp at Ascot on his first start since joining Gay Kelleway. A creditable soft to Bolsho, he rates a danger from his middle draw. Garrencek Velleway. A creditable soft to Bolsho, he rates a danger from his middle draw. Garrencek velleway had his ground (and first tome binkers) when he pinged home at Haydock last Sunday. He has it to do here with the massive 12th rise. Antoniar's Meslody ran in that Haydock sprint after a toy-off and this useful fitly is interesting today in her first-time blinkers. Crebsa 68th has towe taken advantage of a good draw, and a 6th rise after Ayr may just best him today.

4.45 ROYAL BRITISH LEGION INSURANCE SERVICES HANDICAP (CLASS D) £12,000 added 7f
HANDICAP (CLASS D) £12,000 added 7f
1 111-302 WARNENG TREMOS (S) (D) (Hesmonts Stud) Sr Wark Prescnt 3 10 1
2 435324 JO MEL 450 JOD JC H Newton Int Ltd T Easterby 3 9 11
3 \$23051. NEWSHAPPA (14) (7) (7 D Holand-Martin) / Fernhama 3 9 10
4 REDOGO SALDEMATIE (8) (D) (S.R. Bourne) S.Bourne 5.97
5 122402 1925TON POND (10) (CD) (Ms A M Mallinson) Mrs. V Acontry 6 9 7
6 040315 RAVES (15) EDI (P.G. Shorself) Mrs. L. Stubbs 6 9 7
7 350040 XNOBBLESHEZE (7) 60) (Anthony Andrews) M. Charmon 6 9 6
8 130004 BARREL OF HOPE (B) (D) (Peter / Watson) / L Eyre 4 9 5
9 10-0500 SHARP PROSPECT (22) (Future Prospectors /4 Seasons) V Scane 5 9 4R Cochrane 24
10 203140 PERSIAN FIXTRE (21) (D) (Mursy Grubb) / Beny 4 9 4
11 5100 With CARE (37) (D) (J M Grestham) W Janks 3 9 3
12 3-5201 ROYAL MADE (14) 60) (D J Deér) B Hits 3 9 2
13 543101 QUILLING (15) (0) (A G Wassen) M Dods 4 9 1
14 3-30400 PHARMACY (21) (Laty Jane Keplen) J W Wats 3 8 12 W Ryan 10
15 264413 DUELLO (7) (DI CH C Promotors Ltd) M Stanshed 5 8 12
16 (21100 LEGAL ISSUE (37) (b) (8 Valentine) W Hargh 48 11
17 163960 SOMERTON BOY (26) (D) (Mrs. Jens, MacPherson) P Calver 6 8 11
18 450000 FAME AGAIN (7) (D) (M R Charton) Mrs. 1 Remedien 4 8 10
19 352125 DUNDARR GOLF TONE (24) (D) (8F) (C Partnership) Lord Humangdon 3 8 9 D Hardson 23 V
20 850000 LE SPORT (36) (D) (Simple Technology UK Ltd) D Michollo 3 8 9
21. 515500 HALMANESPROR (14) (CD) (Ats Joan Smith (Lincoln)) Mis J Ramsdan 6 8 9 O (Jables 13
22 012530 PRE RIDGE LAD (37) (D) (Whitestonecide Partnership) J L Byre 6 B 8
23 · 440162 SUPERPRIDE (21) 60 ft/s Munel Ward Mrs M Reserv 4 8 6
24 COSCI. SOMERISCOS COURT CUD Minerara Racino Maior D Channell 3 8 5
25. 435000 BEST OF ALL (7) (Robert Aird) J Berry 4 8 3
26 0560LO MESTER WESTSOUND (149 (D Sutherland I Play) Miss I, Perrat. 4 8 3
27 340010 OCHOS RIOS (30) (CD) (Mrs H A Burn) B Rottmell 5 8 2
= 27 declared =
BETTING: 11-1 Househarps, Sovereigns Court, 12-1 Helmanarox, Quilling, Royal Jade, Warming Trends,
14-1 Barrel Of Hope, Deello, Rakis, 18-1 Duranter Golf Time, 18-1 Jo Mell, Keston Pond, 20-1 Salior-
malita, Scenarios Pride, Superpride, 25-1 Feme Again, Kachbiocnesse, Mater Westscaad, Octos

34-1 Barnel Of Riope, Cheele, Steparylick, 25-1 Feme Aglain, Nachbleronesse, Mister Westwood, Ochos Miss, Persian Ryre, Place Ridge Lad, With Care, 33-1 others
1995: Comanche Companion 5 9 3 1 0 Smith 13-2 of 1 Newghton) 23 no.

FORM GUIDE

Barrel Of Hope is a decent sort over the tip and her outs (the lettest over an inadequate six furings), after a min-summer rest will have put him right. Fourth to Garnock Valley at Haydock last Sunday, he is hendicapped to take all the bearing. But the real srip at the weights is Barry Hillis's ROYAL LANG, who had the ability to stretch Farabilly fitnere was since at Yarmouth in June. She has hed her problems with fast ground since, but won her made or over this distance at Redicar a formight ego. The inside draw is a slight worry with the field possibly tacking over to the stands side, but Riyel Jade can overcome it off this lenent handlage mark of 75 (Fatefully won her latest handlage for an overcome it off this lenent handlage ground and has abown enough to suggest a bold showing today at but odds, but this stigridy slower surface may find out Quilling. Numaharspe will do well to defy the 9th ness for her Haydock win, but Warming Trends is over his best try after running as well against Robel County over a mile at Haydock Keston Pound is one who staines on this couse. Duello has been running well, including when gaining a Newbury van last month with Knobbietnesse (6th better) a creditable two-length fourth.

Selections ROYAL JADE

5.15 SAMPLERITE LIMITED STAKES (CLASS D) £8,000 added 6f Penalty value

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The Sporting Life

Holdsworth playing a winning game

Glenn Moore meets Wimbledon's top striker who believes that there is no substitute for hard work



Dean Holdsworth has a confession to make and he would be grateful, if you are a Wimbledon team-mate, if you read no further - or at least skip the next

three paragraphs.
For Holdsworth escaped the tra-ditional "Crazy Gang" initiation when he joined Wimbledon, Nobody cut up his ties, threw his shoes out of a bedroom window or set fire to his kit-bag. For some reason he avoided the customary greeting.

Not that he is complaining. The admission slipped out when he was describing what had happened to Duncan Jupp, one of this season's signings.

"Juppy got the normal one, the

clothes out the window with his boots after them. We were four floors up in a hotel. Me? I. er, got away with it. I've never said it before but nothing really happened to me. I must have joined at the right time, someone else must have been getting a bit of stick. I don't think it will happen now."

Maybe not, but as Gary Lineker recently found out, the Crazy Gang is still alive and mischief-making, even if only Vinny Jones remains of the original members. It is that famed team spirit which means that Wimbledon, after losing their first three matches, are up there again, fifth in the table with five straight wins. Victory today over Sheffield Wednesday (one point from 12) and, depending on other results, they could even be second.

"It was easy to write us off after the first three games - Manchester United. Newcastle and Leeds away, three very tough games." Holdsworth said. "It was not hard to see people jump ing on the wagon and saying: 'This is

"A lot of teams have bought big and we haven't, so it's inevitable that people think we'll struggle. Wimbledon have never bought big – they sell big – but because of the financial situation now the club have said they do not have to sell, which is good for the club and the fans.

"The club is growing quicker than Manchester United. Our average gate last year was 14,000, admittedly with a lot of away support. On the pitch the team are getting more recognition. Brian McAllister was called up by Scotland, we have players representing Ireland, Norway, Nigeria, England Under-21s – we are an international side.

"We are not going to worry about the other teams and where we are in the league. We would like to say we



Dean Holdsworth: "I've been linked with more clubs than Nick Faido. These stories keep occurring and you don't know where they're coming from'

going it is great for confidence and sets a standard to maintain for the season. Not many teams are going to be above us at the end of the season."

Indeed, since Wimbledon entered the top flight 10 years ago they have regularly been in the top 10. Were it not for last year's worst placing of 14th they would have had a better average finish than Everton and Spurs in that time. As it is, their average is ninth. They are also one of only eight teams to have survived the last decade in the top division.

"All the hard work is being appreciated by other people now," Holdsworth said. "When I joined the club everything seemed to get high-lighted apart from the football. I found myself in my first season with 19 goals and not many people knew about many of them. There was always something else happening off the pitch or off the ball. You'd wake up admired in his youth along with Tony

Holdsworth, Robbie Earle or whoever scored the goal'. People are beginning to say they re not bad, that Wimbledon'. But, either way, it is the results that matter. Winning games is the best

"Bigger clubs pay bigger wages and get the big imported stars. I don't think Wimbledon can ever put themselves in that bracket. But you have to be a certain player to play for Wimbledon. You have got to be so hungry it's unbelievable The jellyfish thing is part of that.

When you are in a fight the gloves come off at Wimbledon. I can't work out why Gary Lineker said it. If you pick on Wimbledon you pick on the team, not one person."

Holdsworth himself, incidentally,

is not anti-Lineker. Later in our conversation he held him up as an exwill be there at the end of the season, but one thing you are at Wimbledon is realistic. If we can keep this run will be there at the end of the season, but one thing you are at Wimbledon is realistic. If we can keep this run would be 'and by the way, Dean admired in his youth along with Tony admired in his youth along with Tony are working with everyone it is not alcount of the season, but one thing you are at Wimbledon is realistic. If we can keep this run would be 'and by the way, Dean (Holdsworth is a West Ham fan). "I've been linked with more clubs

He still lives in Essex, with his wife than Nick Faldo. It's been going on Samantha and sons Bradley and Jordan, which means a mind-numbing crawl through the London traffic to get to Wimbledon's Roehampton training ground each day. This follows

several years of braving the North Circular to get to Brentford. It makes you wonder why he has not moved closer, but then, he is supposed to have been moving clubs any day now for about two years. The latest bust-up saw he and Joe Kinnear exchanging words in the tabloids, followed by Holdsworth going on the transfer list reportedly saying he would never play for Wimbledon again. He has since returned to the fold, and the side, although he

remains, technically, on the list.
"I'm still on it but there is no rift between me and the manager or the club," he said. "It got highlighted, but it was just a minor thing. When you

Euell, it may also be in Wimbledon's interests to sell him. for years. It can be frustrating. These Meanwhile, Holdsworth is carving out a second career in the media. For stories keep occurring and you don't know where they have come from. I example, he appears regularly on Sky TV and models for Top Man. When just let it go above my head now. Until I'm told otherwise I'm playing at we met he was working for Philips, promoting their mobile phones at the

Wimbledon and I'm under contract. "It is a backhanded compliment. If I wasn't doing well I wouldn't be linked so it's a nice feeling in a way, but then you let it go and forget about it. Things change overnight in foot-ball, for the sake of a phone call. Until that happens you get on with vour job.

One suspects that, at 27, the England B international knows that a bigmoney move will have to happen soon if it is ever going to happen. While Wimbledon have become adept at surviving in the Premiership it is increasingly hard to see them challenging for honours; even the cups go the way of the élite few these days. Given the current success of Efan Ekoku, and the promise of Jason

Abrosth v Queen's Park
Condentesth v East Strling
Montrose v Inverness Cel Thatle

missing for Liverpool, so Collymore is expected to be the lone front man.

Ross County v Albion

TOMORROW

Future in doubt for 'missing' **Asprilla**

NICK DUXBURY

Faustino Asprilla's future at Newcastle United was thrown into doubt vesterday when the £7.5m striker failed to return from World Cup duty with Colombia.

We don't know where he is," the Newcastle manager, Kevin Keegan, said as he prepared his team for today's Premiership game at Derby County. The forward's no-show almost certainly rules him out of Tuesday's Uefa Cup tie at Ferencyarus.

Asprilla has been in South America, where he scored Colombia's goal in the 1-0 win away to Ecuador on Wednesday. He then failed to meet a Newcastle official in London to arrange a visa for the cup trip

to Hungary.

"We have received a fax from Colombia saying that the plane was stranded." Keegan said.

"We know that it has since taken off, but we don't know where Tino is.

Asprilla went missing at the end of last season on the eve of an international match and was found to have been drinking with friends at a horse show.

The former Parma striker has made it clear he does not enjoy being on the periphery of the first-team since Alan Shearer's arrival and has indicated he would like to return to Italy.

Shearer has dismissed speculation that he might need a second groin operation. "I have just been for a check-up and there are no problems, he said. Newcastic and England fans have nothing to worry about."

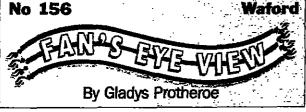
Queen's Park Rangers' like-

ly decision to grant Trevor Sinclair's transfer request will set cheque-books snapping open at a host of clubs. "Although we don't want to lose good players. we also only want players who are committed," Chris Wright, QPR's owner, said: "Trevor has asked for a transfer and that request will be dealt with by the board at their next meeting.

Tottenham have already had a £2.5m bid turned down, with Arsenal, Blackburn, Leeds United and Shelfield Wednesday, eager to join the auction.

graphs, raising some money for char-ity," he said. "I like to keep busy. A Leeds are considering "the lot of players go home, put their feet various legal remedies at its disup, do various things, good or bad. Some people say oh, he's being dis-tracted, but I never allow it to impinge posal," in the dispute with Tomas Brolin after his threat to retire rather than play for them again. The Swede, who cost Leeds £4.5m from Parma barely a year ago, wants to remain In the meantime he may have to on loan in Switzerland.

The short career of the Italing ground. Mind, after the stick he ian striker Andreas Silenzi at has received for appearing in a news-Nottingham Forest is to come paper parade of top humbs, followed by a topless session with Company the Serie B side Venezia.



everywhere eagerly await Blackburn's predictable use. plummet down the Football League to their rightful place of half-way up the old Second Division, we at Vicarage Road are reacquainting ourselves with such areas as Rotherham's Millmoor, and that San Siro of the north, Bootham Crescent.

We are also revelling in our status as worldly-wise "seen-it, done-it" types as we strut around football hotbeds such as High Wycombe, as the over-awed locals peer at us from behind twitching curtains to catch sight of Hornets fans, some of whom have actually been to Old Trafford. At Crewe a couple of weeks ago, two Alex fans even tried to touch us for luck.

Indeed, it seems as if "Newton's (Henry and Keith) Law" holds true. To paraphrase: "Make the most of it mate, because before you know it you'll be back in the AutoWindscreens Trophy." Watford, with Swansea.

Oxford, Oldham and Luton were, along with shoulder pads and Kajagoogoo, ex-amples of 1980s fashion. Like Limahl and the Jo-Boxers, Watford's days in the top league seem a long way

But, for a few short seasons, we were, theoretically, on level terms with the big boys. It didn't last long of course - it couldn't. Like Christmas Day, we enjoyed it, but knew the celebrations and champagne would soon other era of living above be replaced by wet Tuesday nights at Bury.

You see, we didn't really belong. Like Blackburn, we had gatecrashed a high them going the other way.

society dinner party and we didn't know which cutlery to

Even when Watford were League runners-up in 1983 and Wembley FA Cup finalists the next year, Hornets fans' souls were really on a windswept terrace at But, as Blackburn fans

will surely soon realise, you're happiest among your own. Watford are back in the bosom of their family. Look: there's Uncle Stockport! There's no need for airs and graces when it's only Peterborough coming to visit, no call for the best

for the afternoon.

But despite our fall from grace there is a definite buzz of expectation and optimism at Vicarage Road.

china if Chesterfield turn up

The "Holy Trinity" of Graham Taylor, Kenny Jackett and Luther Blissett have so much goodwill in the bank that it would take successive relegations to the Dr Martens League to cause any discontent amongst the doting Watford faithful.

The present regime enjoy support probably unparalleled at any club in the country. There is a feeling that even if the team are rubbish

they're our rubbish. With Vicarage Road now one of the neatest stadiums outside the Premiership, the fans' choice back in the manager's office and a crop of promising youngsters in the squad, Watford could well be preparing for an-

ourseives. We won't forget our manners either: we'll give Blackburn a wave as we meet



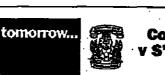
FA Corling Pres entry v Southernation (4.0) Scottish League Mattlematic Football League First Division Por Vale v Stoke (CO) Southend v Walterburgton (CO) 44 Chidebank v Airdrie 45 Fellerk v Bundee.... TEAM SHEET

36 Scartborough v Chester 37 Scurithorpe v Lincoln 38 Torquay v Hereford

Premier Division 39 Abstreen v Desternin 40 Celtic v Motherwell ...

Bell's Scottisk League







Coventry v S'hamton



Last five League matches: Coventry LLWLD; Southampton DLLLW Coventry will be without Belgian full-back Genaux, their £1m signing from Stan dard Liege is ruled out with a groin injury. Southampton give objuts to israeli winger Berkowitz, a £1.2m buy from Maccabi Haifa, and Norwegian striker Ostenstadt, who cost £900,000 from Viking & averager.

Waddle debut for **Bradford at Blues**

Nationwide League

"Live%" technology exhibition.
"I've been signing a few auto-

on my football. This sort of thing might further my career after football.

look out for his clothes at the train-

magazine, he might be reprieved.

You've got to look to do that."

Bradford have signed Chris Waddle on loan and will pitch him straight into today's First Division match at Birmingham.

Chris Kamara, their manag-er, has taken the 35-year-old initially for a month but with a view to extending the arrangement for the rest of the season. Waddle, who won 62 England caps, was released by Sheffield Wednesday earlier this season. He then surprised everyone by agreeing to oin Falkirk in the Scottish First Division for a month.

That arrangement ended ear-lier this week. Waddle, whom Spurs sold to Marseille for £4.25m in 1989, said: "Falkirk have been absolutely marvellous with me - and for me - and they wanted me to stay. They knew right from the start that I wanted to play at a higher level once

the month was up."

Kamara, who earlier this

the front two." The Barnet coach, Terry Bullivant, has left the club - who are top of the Third Division - because of his frustration at being in charge of team affairs without being given the manager's job vacated by Ray Clemence. Terry Gibson, the former Totten-

week completed the signing of Sergio Pinto, brother of the Por-

tuguese international Joao, on

a free transfer from Boavista.

said of Waddle: "There is no

better player in the role behind

ham and Wimbledon striker. has been installed as carctaker manager for today's game at Wolverhampton Wanderers have completed the signings of two midfielders, taking the Derby County captain Robin van der Laan on loan with a view to an £800,000 deal and paying Hamburg £200,000 to borrow Jens Dowe until next summer. Van

Southend tomorrow. Motherwell for sale

Scottish football

The Motherwell chairman. John Chapman, is ready to sell the club within the next year if a buyer can be found.

As Hibernian remain interested in recruiting the Motherwell manager, Alex McLeish, for their vacancy, the Fir Park-club have learned that the chairman wishes to sell his 52 per cent majority shareholding.

Chapman's decision is not connected with the Hibs approach for McLeish, instead he wishes to step down after 15 years on the board. I am 64 and retiring from the family business. I feel it is now time for me also to step back from my footballing commitments," Chapman, a butcher, said.

comes at a time when Hibs want evening.

Alex McLeish as their new manager but it has nothing to do with that."

der Laan will make his debut at

Motherwell have refused Hibs permission to approach McLeish about the Easter Road iob, left vacant when Alex Miller quit last week.

McLeish takes his team to Celtic today where opposing striker Pierre Van Hoerydonk is likely to return to the starting line-up after settling his dispute with his manager lommy Burns.

Aberdeen have been given permission by the Scottish League for live coverage of their Uefa Cup second round. first leg tie with Brondby at-Pittodric next Tuesday, BBC Scotland will show the match live at 8pm, despite two First Di vision matches - Airdrie v St Mirren and Stirling Albion v St "It is unfortunate that this Johnstone playing on the same

حكدًا من الأصل

The earth definitely didn't move for Ipswich last season, so much so that they changed their shirt sponsors from Fisons to Greene King

There must be something about Portakabins which works for York City but not for me. I once took an exam in a Portakabin masquerading as a classroom; its only redeeming feature was a huge metal clock on the wall which I spent an inordinate amount of time staring at. The exam was chemistry, and I failed.

York, on the other hand, who have Portakabin as their sponsors and so have to suffer the dubious distinction of having the name emblazoned across their shirts, dumped mighty Manchester United out of last season's Coca-Cola Cup (winning 3-0 at Old Trafford, for heaven's sake they were the only team to win there in 1995/96), and then dispatched Everton in this season's competition to earn themselves a lucrative home tie against Leicester.

I'm being rather glib here; Poring to the phrase "running around takabin is a very successful company. But I've always thought shirt sponsorship was a bit of a lottery. It's all right if you're Leeds (who used to be Top Man); Walsali (Choice Per-sonnel); or Manchester United (Sharp). It's not so amusing if you happen to be Luton Town (Univer-sal Salvage Auctions), Meadowbank Thistle (The Radge; an Indian establishment that was obviously too hot for Meadowbank to handle as they've since metamorphosed into Livingston); Bristol Rovers (Brad-shaws Snack Box) or especially Here-ford United. The Bulls' shirt has been a laughing stock in recent years. Its logo of club sponsors Sun Valley which looks fine on a packet of frozen chickens but does nothing to enhance a football strip - has given new mean-

like headless chickens" Last season Ayr United were What Everyone Wants, one of Scotland's most tacky clothes shops; Grimsby are Europe's Food Town which, with the greatest respect to Grimsby, it mostly certainly is not; while Clydebank are undoubtedly Wet Wet Wet (at least the Bankies can claim to be the only club backed by a pop group). The earth definite-ly didn't move for Ipswich last season, so much so that they changed their sponsors from Fisons to Greene King. And I'm absolutely certain Blackpool players must have suffered a few taunts of "You're a big girl's blouse" from opposing players; they are sponsored by Rebecca's. Huge sighs of relief all round at

Hibs, meanwhile. The Edinburgh

Olivia Blair



chub have just replaced Calor Gas with Carlsberg on the club's shirts. It was a sponsorship I found fainty ironic since Easter Road is always

Hibs, in fact, were the first Scot-

tish club to carry a shirt sponsor, that er buy anything manufactured by of Bukta in 1977 (Kettering Town were the first south of the border, in 1976). Since then they've been spon-sored by such highfalutin' organisa-tions as P&J Windows, Frank Graham Builders and a company called Macbean, which makes protective clothing. That, as you can imagine, gave the headline writers a field day (Has-beens, Might-have-

beens, etc).

Joking aside, shirt sponsorship gives the company concerned greater prominence, particularly if its club s doing well and receiving extensive

media coverage.

Of course, while a sponsor may endear itself to a certain market by being associated with a particular club, the link can have the opposite effect. I happily admit that I will nevJVC, and know Arsenal fans who would not dream of letting a drop of Holsten pass their lips, or a Hewlett Packard product dent their bank balance. I bet Blackburn Rovers fans aren't insured by Endsleigh, and that even the most parched Burnley fan would turn down a pint of McEwans. And I'd like to know the breakdown of Brother and Sharp sales in Man-chester. In fact, the only time sponsorship has bridged the gap was in the 1980s when canny Scottish double glazing firm, CR Smith, bridged

the biggest gap of all by sponsoring both Rangers and Celtic. I'm sure I wasn't alone in thinking it slightly strange when England announced they were being spon-sored by a breakdown firm, Green

Flag. Thankfully, it hasn't proved to he a had omen, although it was ironic that the first match of the association - at Lansdowne Road in February 1995 - was against a country whose fans waved green flags and which was abandoned after 20 minutes. Admiral were actually the first sponsors of England, in the 1970s; in 1990 it was, er. Trebor Mints. We must be thankful it wasn't Polo, the mint with a hole in the middle. That could have given the defence all sorts of problems.

Mind you, sponsors aren't nec-essarily visible to the naked eye. In 1991, Aldershot struck a deal with a computer company which meant the players had to wear the company's name - on their jock straps. Now that sounds like a load of old bollocks to me.

Solskjaer swiftly gunning for glory



It is a moot point whether Alex Ferguson knows the Norwegian word for robber but you sus-

pect it is merely a matter of time. The chances are there will be a Scandinavian Joe Royle somewhere, ready to remind the Manchester United manager of his good judgement and fortune. For years "robber" was the

first word Royle would shout down a telephone line at Ferguson, the legacy of the de-pendable Denis Irwin's £625,000 fee when he moved from Oldham Athletic to Old Trafford. That was for a fullback. How much more angst will be incurred by Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, who seems to possess the knack which is beyond price: scoring goals?

Five so far in four starts Sfrom a 23-year-old son of a Norwegian wrestling champion who United expected to be blooming six months after his £1.5m move from Molde, and whose arrival has taken on an extra significance with Andy Cole's broken legs. If Ferguson looks like Christmas has arrived early, in

"He's one for the future," Ferguson growled as the raw tive arm already round a player whose inexperience - two years ago he was playing in the Norwegian Third Division makes him less football wise than many of the younger players around him. The future

would not wait, however.
Indeed Solskjaer was hammering on the door as soon as he put on the United shirt. In his first reserve game he scored twice and hit the bar, on his firstteam debut as a substitute he

Guy Hodgson on Old Trafford's swaggering young Norwegian striker

claimed an equaliser against Blackburn Rovers; he has scored every time he has played at Old Trafford. As Ferguson puts it: "You just can't ignore him. He surprised us all."

Perhaps not everyone. The Norwegians had a sneaking suspicion that Ferguson, who picked up Peter Schmeichel for £550,000 and Andre Kanchelskis for £650,000, had secured another bargain from mainland Europe. The new Alan Shearer they call Solskjaer in Oslo, the result of 26 goals for Moide last season as well as four in his first six appearances for his country.

"He is a huge talent," Oyvind Leonhardsen, who comes from Solskjaer's home town of Kristianson and who recommended him to his own club, Wimbledon, last season, said. "We used to train together at the same Norwegian club, Klaus Energen, and although he was three years younger than me he stood out. He was small but had

"Shearer is the only player I could compare him to. He might not be as strong yet, but Ole can score goals from any angle and distance with either foot.
If he gets a chance then Ole will

Solskjaer's glaring misses against Rapid Vienna in the Champions' League exposed the exaggeration in Leonhardthe field in his first match he had tongue.

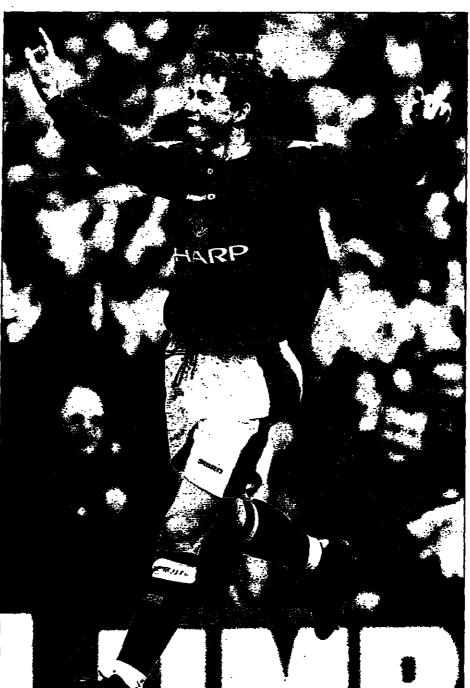
sesses and Cole does not His goal was taken with a fierce volley, his desire to score un-biunted by an initial save by Tim Flowers, but he also had three other shots in a 22-minute cameo that had the sharpness of a February wind.

His attitude, too, seems exemplary for a striker. If Cole had missed the two chances that Solskjaer blew against Rapid he would almost certainly have brooded. The Norwegian with a child's face seemed to discard them from his memory as soon as his expression of embarrassment disappeared. Instead he stressed the positive: "My first half was one of my best ever in

"I'm not really strong enough to keep away defenders with my back to goal so I have to move quickly. When I do, I don't think people can catch me. I think I've improved enormously since artiving in the summer. My confidence is much better.'

In the context of Old Trafford, scoring sensations can come and go quickly, as Andy Ritchie and Mark Robins could testify, but Solskjaer looks an authentic article as his goals against Tottenham Hotspur in ited's last game had natural running through them. His feet are quick but his mind seems to work in the calculating way that makes Eric Cantona the outstanding creative force in the Premiership.

As Aage Hareide, Solskjaer's erstwhile coach at Molde, said last week: "If I'd known he was going to keep on scoring like this I'd have sold him for sen's words but you know what £50m." The word robber he means. As soon as he took seemed to be on the tip of his



Ole Gunnar Solskjaer: Cause for celebration

Photograph: Laurence Griffiths/Empics

Euro 96 books reveal record profit of £69m

England's hopes of staging the World Cup in 2006 were given a boost yesterday when it was revealed that Euro 96 had made a record profit of £69m.

The virtually trouble-free month was proof that hoolicanism can be conquered and now the announcement of a multi-million pound profit for the championships puts the ic-ing on the Football Associa-

While all that money will be oing to Uefa, the governing body of European football, rather than Lancaster Gate, the FA will receive £4m as reward for England's run to the last four. Winners Germany will get £6m after lifting the trophy courtesy of their golden-goal win over the Czech Republic. Scotland receive £2.5m for coming third behind England in their group. The FA also revealed an ex-

tra surplus of £500,000 and it is expected that further money will come in the next few months as Uefa make a contribution towards the operating costs of the event While the FA were the or-

ganisers, the tournament was held under Uefa's auspices. with the fees for television and ceipts going to European football's governing body. Of the total profit, £47m will

be split between the 16 competing nations. The other £22m will go into Uefa's Special Fund. dedicated to the development of the game in the emerging nations of eastern Europe.

"When it comes to bidding for the World Cup, there can be no better example to point to than that we have proved we can or-

huge success, in terms of crowds, the atmosphere and the financial side as well." Steve Double.

an FA spokesman, said. The FA's own profit, with the costs of organising the tournament over four years detracted from the income of £3.5m. was more than many had expected. Double added: "There were some doom and gloom merchants predicting that we would make a massive loss and, while we were never in this to make a profit for ourselves. we always said the tournament would make either a small loss or a small profit.

"Fortunately it was a profit. but more importantly the success in every aspect of Euro 90 has put the reputation and prestige of England and the English game at the highest level it's been at since 1966. That's not something you can buy.

"And there were other spinoffs as well, for the game in this country and the economy as a whole. We saw that at first hand at Wembley on Wednesday, with a capacity crowd for Glenn Hoddle's first game, proof that we've gained hugely from the summer. There was a Euro 96related tourist boom in June. number of foreign visitors the trade balance was in surplus.

Euro 96 tournament director Glen Kirton stressed that the good financial news had topped off what was in every other respect a terrific tournament.

"The money side is very nice but it was never the purpose of the exercise," Kirton said. "That was always the prestige of English football and the hope that we could leave a legaganise a tournament that was a cy for the future."

debuth d at Blue ar

cll for sale

Meriene Ottey, the second fastest fe-male sprinter in the world, has no plans to retire. On Thursday, a minister for spe-cel projects in Jameica armounced Ottey was moving into a career in fashion de-sign, leading to speculation she would retire. However, her astert Antizzii kirsign, reaoning to speculations are would in-reture. However, her agent Andrzej Ku-likowski said yesterday Ottey was about to sign a two-year deal with a sports company to design shoes and appar-el, which probably led to the confusion.

AMERICAN LEAGUE CHAMPIONSRIP: Bal-umore 5 New York 3 (best-of-seven series lev-

Nigel Benn, the former world champion, is to be interviewed by the British Boxing Board of Control over an alleged incloent in a London night club. This will take place at the Board's next meeting days after his WBO super-middleweight title rematch with Steve Coffins, of inserted as a bit and the in Manageriester.

Denis Roux, the Canada head coach, has accepted an offer to coach the pro-tessional French team GAN, replacing



FANTASY. FOOTBALL

Check your scores every Wednesday and Sunday and watch out for our first transfer period, starting 23 October



THE INDEPENDENT

SPORTING DIGEST NATIONAL LEAGUE CHANFIONSHIP: Attants 3 St Louis 8 (series level at 1-1). Practice Van Londersele, who has assumed coaching duties with the new French team, Colidis.

Drugs in Sport

Drags in Sport

The International Olympic Committee have found: a way of detecting enythropoletin, a drug suspected of having killed athletes in the past. Brythropoletin stimulates the production of red blood cells which transport coyen around the body. It is used by athletes who want to cheat in endurance events like cycling and rowing, it is suspected that 18 inders in Europe have died taking the drug since it was first introduced to treat kidney disease in the mid-1980s.

Peter Hoekstra, the Ajex and Dutch In-ternational winger, will have a knee op-eration next week that will keep him out of action for most of the rest of the sea-

TEXAS OPEN (San Antonio) Leading Stratround scores (round suspended becasses
of definees, US unless strated; 66 J Huston, M Heinen, 67 D Frost (SA), H Royer, 88
J Monte, M Cotosrecchia, K Gobern, W
Austin, M Hubest, 59 D Hammond, T Tyner,
3 Caes, TWoods, J L (swis, 70 J Hess, L Mite,
D Patie, C Pavin, A Bean, B Gilder, D
Bergario, S Dunies, K Forgas, S Randoph,
D Ogno, T Tuye, M Springer, T Horon, B Yeay,
E (Sprun, B Weddins, M Brisis), S Randoph,
D Ogno, T Tuye, M Springer, T Horon, B Teay,
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CORESTATES BETSY NAME JPBA CLASSIC
(Rutstown, Powersysheals) (cedding fleetround scores (US unless statusd): 68 A
Somestam (Swis), 68 J Plens, 69 C Schaper, L Dudies (GR), 70 K Williams, C Piscos (ES),
L Neumann (Swis), 68 J Plens, 69 C Schaper, L Dudies, K Salt, 71 M Will, M Mogeorys, T
Barrett, L Landey, S Croce, 72 B Whishead,
J Stepherson, P Liscio, J Lidoph, J Dictorson, K Davies, D Andreas, K Albers, C Mesthes,
W Doolan.

Hockey WORLD CUP PRELIMINARY (Cagliari): 9/12th places: Egyt 2 USA 4; China 5 Scotland 2. 7/8th place: Wales 3 Kenya 1.

NHE: Dallas 2 NY Rangers 1; Philadelphia 5 Los Angeles 4 (o/t); Colorado 6 Anaherin 6 (o/t); Phoenix 4 San Jose 1.

Rugby League

Matt Munro, Oldham's Australian for-ward, has announced that he expects to be return to the club next season. Although signed up by Super League in Australia, the former Balmain forward also has a two-year deal with Oldham, with Super League approval.

Nurray Wallace, of Glasgow High/Yelvin-side, has been called into the Scotland squad for next month's Dubai Sevens tournament as a replacement for Haw-ick's Brian Renwick, who has broken a bone in his foot.

come or his tool.

Cameron Blades, the uncapped prop.
was yesterday added to the Australian
squad to tour Britain and Italy from next
week. Blades, 25, joins his 29-year-old
brother Andrew in the party after Dan
Crowley was miled our with an infected toe.

Squash
WOMEN'S WORLD OPEN (Makeysia) Quarter-finale: Living (Aus) or M Martin (Aus) 4-9
10-9-9-5-9-5-C Lischmen (Eng) N. S Schores
(Ger) 9-2-9-4; S Fitz-Garaki (Aus) bt C
Owens (Aus) 9-2-9-19-1; S Wingel (Eng) bt
S Nomer (Eng) 9-4-9-0-9-4.

Greg Rusedski, the British No 2, reached his fourth ATP Tour serm-final of the year yesterday with a straight-sets victory over Brazillan Gustavo Kuerten in the Peking Open. The left-hander defeated Kuerten 6-3, 6-4 to line up a meeting with the fourth seed Byron Black, the world No 49 from Zimbabwe.

The Austrian Tennis Federation said yestenday it would appeal against the in-ternational Termis Federation's verdict that it must forfelt \$59,000 (£38,600) terriational Jernis Federation's vertical that it must forfeit \$59,000 (£38,600) in prize-money for failing to complete less morth's Davis Cup the agarsts Frezil, believing they are entitled to the edvertising part of the money, some \$40,000. The Austrians will not dispute the 4-1 victory awarded to Brazil by the ITF after their team's well-out. CATROPHY MEN'S TOURNAMENT (Mennatic Second research Bosche (Early M Stoch (Early 16,26,6,6,6,6,6,6). The Wisterliev (Ruin) 7-6 7-6; J Sementry, (Netry br. S. Edberg (Save 17-5 5-7 7-6; J Sementry, (Netry br. S. Edberg (Save 17-5 5-7 7-6; J Sementry, (Netry br. S. Edberg (Save 17-5 5-7 7-6; J Sementry, (Netry br. S. Edberg (Save 17-5 5-7 7-6; J Sementry, (Netry br. S. Edberg (Save 17-5 5-7 7-6; J Messner (Aus) bt. I Mejoli (Croe) 6-4 7-5.

LIA AUTUMEN SATELLITE MASTERS (Sheffleth) Bant's singles Shath R Kooring (Sav) bt. O Pilanet (C. Ruin) 7-6 6-0. Doubliss 1-main A Foster (Sit) and C. Singer (US) bt. J Fox and D Krik (Sit) 7-6 6-2.

Golf too 'tiring' for Bristol men Rugby Union

Bristol's golf-mad rugby players have been told they must use buggies if they go out on the fairways. The Courage League First Division club are worried that their 30-man professional squad is in danger of becoming too "tired" from walking around golf courses.

"We've got no problems with the guys playing golf," Mark Tainton, Bristol's rugby devel-opment manager, said. "But we are worried about them getting tired between training sessions, so we've insisted they use bug-gies to travel around in. Otherwise, it is a four-hour walk. Courses without buggies are no-

Old Boys miss absentees

Old Loughtonians will be with-out the Great Britain defender Julian Halls for their home game this afternoon against Havant. Halls is spending the weekend in Guernsey on a coaching exercise. His place is likely to go to Bedford student Sean Robinson, writes Bill Colwill.

The Old Boys, one of several clubs badly affected by the World Cup preliminary in Cagliari, are unlikely to press their three Scottish internationals into service tomorrow, on their return from Italy, for the away game at Barford Tigers.

Guildford, however, have named their Welsh goalkeeper Kevin Priday and Richard Markham in their squad for the short trip to Surbiton. They also include Roly Ward - their new signing from Firebrands whose father, Carl, is coach to the Italian national squad.



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PAGEONE

'Liverpool became the best because they never allowed sentiment to come into their decision-making. They always outed you at the first sign of decline' Graeme Souness talks to lan Stafford in Monday's 24-page sports section

MOTOR RACING: Williams drivers happy with their cars but weather adds element of uncertainty to world championship decider

Confident Hill ready to claim the crown

ARGENTINA

EUROPEAN

MONACO

CANADA

GERMANY

HUNGARY

BELGIUM

PORTUGAL

DAVID TREMAYNE

reports from Suzuka

On the day Damon Hill and Jacques Villeneuve were upstaged in their fight for the world drivers' championship, the Williams-Renault owner, Frank Williams, had to be bullied into expressing any opinion as to which of them he wants to see crowned world champion on Sunday. With reluctance he said: "All I will say is that Damon has worked for Williams for four years in grand prix racing. And yes, it would be nice for him to

As Hill is banished to TWR Arrows, it was reported yester-day that his partner next season will be Pedro Diniz, the 26-yearold Brazilian currently driving for Ligier who is bringing a £5m budget to the Oxfordshire team.

Villeneuve, who stays on at Williams for 1997, ended a damp day in fourth place with Hill right behind, but the only times that matter are those they set in qualifying in the afternoon, which will decide the starting grid for this crucial final encounter.

"I think it's a good start, and I'm quite happy with the car," Hill said, looking relaxed despite intermittent rain which left the track slippery throughout the day. "It was changing every lap, and there were certain parts of the track that were wetter than others. Although there was a dryish line the times were quite a long way from a full dry time. So it was half and half, really.

"At the end I elected to go out and do a longish run, so I've got a good feel what the car might be like if the race conditions are like this. I'm pleased with the way things went. It was a useful session from two points of view: we got some wet running and close to some dry running. We got a lot of information today."

Villeneuve, too, was buoyant, though less able than he had hoped to capitalise on his experience of the track from junior racing. "Portugal was better for me because we had done a lot of testing at Estoril," he said. "If it's going to rain here all weekend it's going to be very difficult to work on the car. I didn't do changing so much. This morning me for an interview. I always mg the track didn't feel quite the gave him one even though there way I remembered it from the days it was wet when I used to race Formula Three here, but by the afternoon it was beginning to feel more familiar.

Gerhard Berger was the man in the strongest form, his good humour evident even at breakfast. "You know," he joked, "in my days in Formula Three all the sponsors wanted was television, so I had this guy follow

3 at start. Lost time in pin

Led comfortably until en gine blew up at just ove

Sid off and returned hind Schumsehas

10 Unchallenged throughout after Schumacher's engine blev on parade lap

spun of again in wet rac Held off Villenauve at firs comer. One pit-stop stret

Nearly caught Villeneuve pespee poor start and pit

Lost time after confusion over pit stop and fin-ished a distant fifth

Traught by Wienewe at-

wasn't any film in the camera. The sponsors wanted to see television interest, so I gave it to them. I got more money and no-body ever seemed to realise that the film never came!"

Yesterday there was no need for subterfuge as the 37-year-old Austrian finished practice more than half a second faster than Mika Hakkinen's McLaren-Mercedes and almost a second

Stuck behind Alest after pri stops and falled to re-

Never threatened Hill. Led for three laps between his and Hill's first pit stop

steet over front wing

Stranded in fourth pisce early on but pulled away from HB once shead.

Needs to was and hope Total HB firstnes out, of the points to wio title

Japanese Grand Prix

cause the track conditions were — me with a camera and keep ask——ahead of Michael Schumacher's Ferrari. "We've solved a front suspension problem that hurt us in the last two races," Berger said, "and I hope that we can confirm this performance tomorrow."

"A couple of people are quick today but you can't tell on Fri-day exactly what the situation is," Hill said. "Quite often we find on Friday we are apparently not as competitive as others, but then on Saturday we put our-selves at the head of the field again, so I don't know quite what to say about today except that some of the people ahead of us may be there for other reasons."

His Williams-Renault looked twitchy at times, but Hill was as unconcerned about its behaviour as he was about the four drivers ahead of him. "I was pushing to find the limits and every now and then you'd hit a patch that would make the back end step out, but the car was very controllable so I'm quite encouraged by that."

The weather forecast is not good for the weekend, and Hill and Villeneuve would prefer a dry track. "Of course it's preferable to have a dry race," Hill said, "but I'm not too concerned either way. It's just a little more predictable when it's dry."

"I think we've got a better car in the dry," Villeneuve said, and there is more chance of Damon or myself falling off if it's wet. And the wet will put the other teams closer to us as well. To win the championship I have to win, so I guess I'd rather have a dry track. The ball is in Damon's camp, so all I can do is my best and win the race and then hope that Damon doesn't finish. But if you nope for something you get the opposite, and you'll regret it anyway." Regret, for sure, will engulf one of them on Sunday.



Ferguson attacks League's schedule

GUY HODGSON

This time last year Manchester United versus Liverpool had a sub-plot so arresting it was difficult to focus on the main event. Eric Cantona's return from an eight-month suspension would probably have overshadowed any match, so it is pleasant to be able to dwell on the prodigious sum this time rather than the prodigal son.

Not that the kick-off time of 11.15am is conducive to anyone wishing to linger over ancient

average football supporter has start, a morning kick-off was nechad time to rise and relish the prospect of the Premiership leaders travelling to meet the champions. Whatever happened to the Saturday 3pm kick-off?

Lap record: 1m 40.646s

What occurred in this case was, as ever, television. Sky wanted to show this match tomorrow but United, who have a long flight Turkey to Fenerbabce in the Champions' League next week would not brook that and with Greater Manchester Police understandably anxious

essary to avoid a clash with the

rest of the League programme. As it happens, Sky who, commendably, were happy to ac-commodate morning glory rather than insisting on Sunday dinner, have been considerably more accommodating than the Premiership fixtures computer. Other countries could, but probably would not, contrive to put the bitterly contested equivalent of United versus Liverpool together the weekend before about a cocktail of several hours both clubs play in Europe, but

rivalries. Get distracted today and drinking and 55,000 Mancunians only England, you imagine, the match will be over before the and Liverpudlians with a 5pm would welcome them back with matches against Newcastle and

Everton respectively.

Such scheduling is crass and Alex Ferguson, the United manager, was justified in calling for changes yesterday. "We are ex-pected to be performing for England but it's depending on bulldog resilience to churn out results in Europe," he said. "It's too much to face a testing game against Liverpool and then expect us to be magnificent against Fenerbahce on Wednesday.

"I'm not saying you should be allowed to pick your fixtures, but

DOWN

turned up (5) Heaving silver up found

on Eastern wreck ... (9)

... (vessel in rocky place

Green coach's lost time

Foreign cash acquires

That's just typical of a

with batteries? (10)

16 Declare a duty-free situ-

ation? (9) 18 Second, and one to ad-

vance? Unlikely (7)

19 Great Italian cast in

bronze, I see (7)

(5) 23 Sealed and binding (5)

24 Look for castles round

Italy (4)

14 Panda carved in part

British sign (5)

model! (9)

corai (6.3)

- Crete) (10)

marked (7)

should be kept apart. Ideally recent seasons than today's we'd all have home games before European matches and we'd all play on Saturday. It's a simple

reorganisation. Ferguson has a fully fit squad today apart from - and this could be crucial - Roy Keane, who was outstanding when the teams met in the FA Cup final The Irishman's physical presence almost totally nullified Liverpool's attacking threat that day, reducing John Barnes, Jamie Redknapp, Robbie Fowler and

Stan Collymore to anonymity.
Only two of that quartet will play today and you would expect that Patrik Berger and Michael Thomas will, in Keane's absence, be able to impose themselves more forcibly.

Liverpool had the better of the two teams meetings in League last season, unlucky to draw 2-2 on Cantona's return and United hugely fortunate to slip away from Anfield with only a 2-0 defeat over Christmas. On their day the Merseysiders give a compelling case for being the best team in the country, even without the injured Fowler, but no side has been better in head-to-head encounters with

teams who are playing in Europe the Premiership front-runners in opponents

They're four points clear of us," Ferguson said. "We can't afford to let them get further ahead. They've had a good start which has helped their confidence, but we are at our best sometimes in challenges like

With such a titanic clash as an appetiser, the main course might appear an anticlimax although it would be difficult to describe Arsène Wenger's first match in charge of Arsenal as such. The Gunners travel to Blackburn today, possibly more surprised than anyone that they are in third place while their opponents are still waiting for their first League win of the season.

There has been much talk in the capital about the formation Wenger will adopt. There has been speculation he might adopt a five-man defence with perhaps a surprise in the central trio. At least Dennis Bergkamp can be ruled out as the Dutchman is still out of action with a hamstring injury.

Football finances, page 19 United deny takeover, page 20 Winner Holdsworth, page 28

RELATIVE STRENGTHS OF THE REDS Manchester v Liverpool United

With three of the four best full-backs in Britain and commanding centre-backs it was a mistary why the define backs shockingly trail. The opening minutes so disjointed at the start of the season; but two goals conceded in their last six games suggests a tightening of the PA Cup final were awful for the last six games suggests a tightening of to be a steedying influence. Much will some screws. If all else fails there is Schmelchel.

MIDFIELD 8/10 MIDFIELD

FORWARDS 9/10 FORWARDS

Cartona, slone, is worth a make fine, and for much of last season, as bought for speed, unpradictability and the skill to bass an opponent. Para-was precisely what he was. The renchman has been short of his information best to date but the prospect of his perceptiveness and Solsiquer's speed is exciting.

Series has provided what Collymore was bought for speed, unpradictability and the skill to bass an opponent. Para-doxically, Collymore who will play in Fowler's absence, has shown a greater of his perceptiveness and Solsiquer's speed is exciting.

Guy Hodgson

8/10 DEFENCE

Cruyff and Poborsky have yet to settle
and so has the manager's mind as to
and so has the manager's mind as to
which players comprise his best unit.
The absence of Kearie, who was dutstanding in the FA Cup final, could be
important although the blossoming of
Beckham from a peripheral to central
figure is a hoge compensation.

Better belanced with Thomas' inclusion
as a combination of Rames and Red
cuthvated the inclination to pass for
pessing's sake. More direct, they no
longer allow teams to build defences
before trying to find the final ball. With
McManaman anything is possible.

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	Friday	's solut	ion		Ļ	L. La	ıst S	atur	rday	's so	luti	<u></u> оп

ACROSS Tackle political organisa- 1 Parcel containing a ring

6 Fifty entering bar for comfort (5)

9 Shrub, the European kind, in season almost 4 Dry figure keeping the Sabbath (7) 10 Like inscrutable charac-Strange stone outwardly

ters? (9) 11 Breaks in, locating spring in more than one

lock (10) 12 Better eating river fish 14 First one in formal line

15 Soothing word's given to 13 Like a unit operating a girl (7) 17 Grating from creaky

tiliers (7) 19 Group I record's into

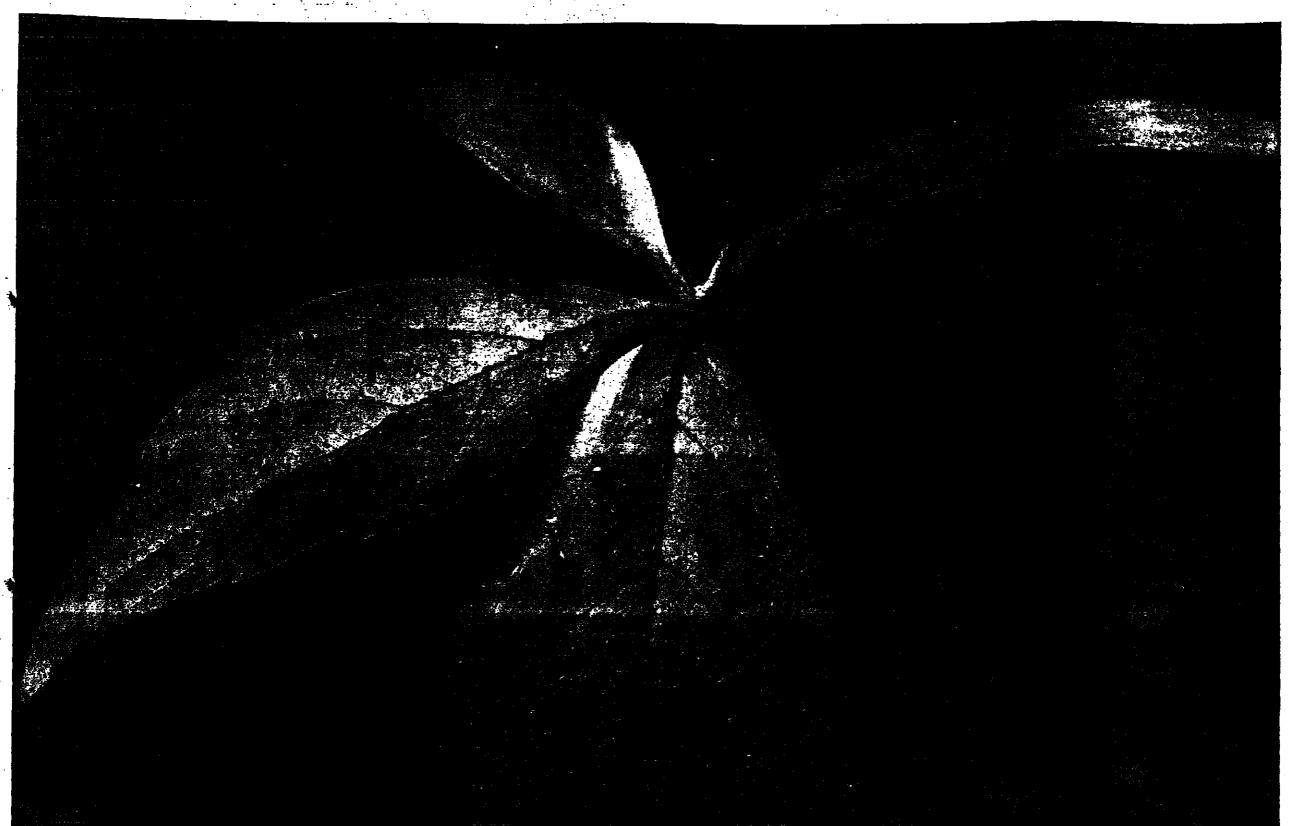
crack (7)
20 Company heading off for Northern river (4) 22 Hamlet's conclusion?

25 Girl, meeting boy, flirted 21 Insect-eater - fly mostly

26 Speech, Western in essence (5)

27 Stick end burnt off to pale ash (5) 28 Muse on or about a

prayer (9) tations. Answers and winners' names will be published used Saturday. Scad solutions to OUP Saturday Crossword, P. O. Box 4018, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, Lendon E145HL. Picase use the box number and postcode and give your own postcode. Last week's winners: Mrs E Woollard, Warminster; Austin Leach & Valerie Day, Hoylake; Shirley Pielon, Thunton; A Ogus, Dobeross; Linda Gibson, Stoke Hill.



Autumn red: a Russian vine in photographer Brian Harris's garden, Saffron Walden, Essex. Taken on Kodak 160 ASA colour negative film, 1/60th of a second at f11 using a Nikon Macro lens

the longweiele THE INDEPENDENT • SATURDAY 12 OCTOBER 1996

Grisp, dry, bright, mornings... autumn days give you a tingle. As you walk to work the fallen leaves scrunch underfoot. Everything smells fresh. The more romantic of us try to catch a falling leaf for good luck. The former US presidential candidate Eugene McCarthy wrote that the only colour which stands out in spring is black./In autumn the colour is red brazen and heroic against the deciduous greens of summer. Bomb attacks, absurd royal hoaxes volcanoes in Iceland ... it was a week as good, bad and baffling as many other. Better than most for the true blues of the Tory party gathered under the bright skies of Bournemouth. For them the scent of victory. For the rest of us, the scent of wood smoke.

interview



John Walsh meets... John **Fuller**

The prize-winning poet who has influenced a Parnassian Cosa Nostra of writers and creative spirits page 3

arts & books

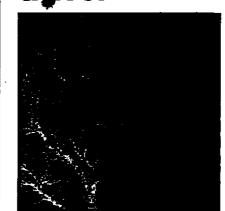


The Queen, democracy and society

Is the monarchy the glue that holds us together, or a hindrance?. page 5

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Silent swim under a sea of storm

A sense of magic as you sink into a gloriously alien world page 9

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The best for pensions and savings

Special report on how to make the right investment decisions. page 22

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Whatever happened to **Sir Anthony** Meyer?

The moment: Sir Anthony Meyer was the "stalking donkey" who made the Tories quiver a little bit at his effrontery when he ran for the leadership of the Conservative Party against Margaret Thatcher in 1989.

The intention... was to wound Thatcher badly enough to bring in one of the Lions, Michael Heseltine, for the second round; hence his nickname as the "stalking donkey". A passionate Europhile, he was 68 and little known beyond his own circle of Euro-friends, and his Clwyd North West constituency, when he ran against the most famous leader in the western world. Educated at Eton, Oxford, and a former Scots Guards officer, who became a diplomat in Paris and Moscow after the war, the courteous Sir Anthony admitted that he never expected to win



And then... Sir Anthony took advantage of his 15 minutes to write an autobiography, Stand Up and Be Counted, published in 1990. Although the Iron Lady saw off the lanky contender with ease, her invincibility had been dented. Sir Geoffrey Howe's resignation speech inflicted more serious damage, and a Cabinet revolt in 1990 led to the challenge by Mr Heseltine that put John Major in Number 10.

Mr Major therefore has Sir Anthony to thank for his term

of office But the father of four decided to step down from his seat in 1992 after the spectacular disclosure of a 26-yearlong love affair with a blues singer and bit-part actress. Simone Washington, 49. His wife, Lady Barbadee, stood by him, and the world boggled at his elderly athleticism. Sir Anthony gave up his Parliamentary career, but he was far from why to retire from the political world.

And now... Sir Anthony, who lives in Brompton Square, will be celebrating his 76th birthday on 27 October, a fortnight after Lady Thatcher's 71st. Her "kiss and make up" appearance with Mr Major stole the limelight at the Tory Party conference in Bournemouth this week, while Sir Anthony stayed away.

The romantic baronet continues his love affair with Europe as policy director of the cross-party European Movement, whose members include Edwina Currie and Labour MP Giles Radice. He was made an officer of the Légion d'Honneur in 1983, in recognition of his services to Franco-British relations over three decades.

But while Mr Major fights the tide of Euro-scepticism in his former party, Sir Anthony knows that his job is not done. There is every likelihood that the Tory party will elect a leader even more Euro-sceptic than Lady Thatcher after the next election. He is guaranteed a footnote in British political history for helping to bring her down, but the thought that a Euro-sceptic Tory Party may be led by Portillo, Howard, Lilley or Redwood, is enough to make the stalking donkey restless for another run round the ring of fame.

COLIN BROWN



heavenly When is Uranus really bad news?

This week the Tories continued to turn themselves inside out to avoid meltdown over the issue of a single European currency. As Kenneth Clarke tries to hedge the country's bets, it would take more than a crystal ball to predict where the economy will be by next May, never mind in 1999. Watching this ping-pong match of rival arguments, I am surprised anyone can claim to be baffled that belief in astrology survived over so many centuries. Indeed I find one of the most helpful ways to understand this discredited pre-modern mentality is to look at the discipline of economics.

Economists rarely seem capable of accurate prediction: Black Wednesday, when we ejected from the ERM, was only their most recent catastrophic prophetic failure. The Chancellor and Eddie George remain



hopelessly at odds over the ups and downs of inflation vs interest rates. Like rival schools of economists, European astrologers warred constantly over the correct course for a country, a war, a king or a pope. Yet universities granted degrees in the subject, and few heads of state made a move without them.

When proven wrong, astrologers simply claimed – like economists - that their methods were not yet perfected or that certain crucial factors had been withheld from them. And like economics, their art was consistently subjected to satire,

ridicule, and scorn. Yet astrologers hobnobbed with the great and good, clients swarmed to them, and they earned large fees for their opinions through books and journalism. Long after the so-called Scientific Revolution, some of whose heroes were themselves cardcarrying astrologers, practitioners continued to receive vast sums of money from a public who remained in thrall despite all contrary evidence.

The historian Michael Hunter

recently outed Samuel Jeake, a Nonconformist merchant in Rye and one of the first subscribers to the Bank of England, as an astrologer. In 1694 Jeake was careful to draw up a horoscope for 26 June at 6:30pm, the time he first bought stock in the Bank. He made similar calculations for his investments in the East India Company, predicting accurately that its stock value would slide further. Jeake's investments prospered, and he died a wealthy man. Would we really be willing to take an oath that Lloyd's Gooda Walker syndicate investors had the advantage by living in our rational modern age?

When Jeake made his calculations, Saturn was thought to be the outermost planet. since William Herschel spotted Uranus only in 1781 (originally naming it quite appropriately after the mad King George III). Years ago in New York, someone showed me a chart purporting to be that of the US Stock Exchange, struck for the time of its first trading. They pointed out that at the mid-heaven – the top point of the circle dominating everything – sat the unpredictable planet Uranus, credited by astrologics with bringing swift, violent and unexpected events. This, they contended, accounted for the 1929 stock market crash and

crashes still to come. At that time America was wondering whether the Dow Jones average would ever reach 2,000. As the Dow smashes the 6,000 mark, I occasionally think of this planet hovering up there like a capricious hawk waiting to strike. If theology is queen of the sciences, then economics is their knave and astrology surely the

Ann Geneva

and another thing..

When is a cricketing spin doctor useless?

"Useless," says the writer Daniel Pedersen in this week's Newsweek magazine. "If you reduce British conventional wisdom about John Major to a single word, "useless" has been the handsdown winner for years." A plausible claim, but is it true?

We have been checking the facts on our database of British newspapers, which covers a cross-section of the national press daily and Sunday, tabloid and broadsheet -over the past three years. Our first finding appeared to lend support to Pedersen: the word "useless" occurred 29 times in the same sentence as the name "John Major", compared with only five uselesses for Tony Blair and three for Paddy Ashdown.

There have, however, been considerable more references to John Major, and thus more chances for him to occur in close proximity to the word "useless", but even taking this into account, he holds a straig lead in uselessness over his rivals.

But is "useless" a "hands-down winner" as claimed? We selected nine other words for comprison. The table below lists the results. The figures are the number of times you would expect to find each word in 1,000 sentences containing the names of each party leader. So, for example, in every 1,000 sentences containing the name "John Major", you would expect to find 14.2 references to "education".

•	Major	Blair	Ashdov
education	14.Ź	34.8	18.2
crime	7.3	18.0	3.8
hospitals	4.6	4.8	3.5
taxation	2.6	6.6	5.1
sleaze	5.9	3.5	1.3
spin doctor	0.9	8.5	1.1
integrity	1.3	1.8	2.4
Single Euro, Curr.	2.4	1.2	0.9
cricket	7.2	0.6	0.2
useless	0.5	0.2	0.7

Education tops all three lists, with crime a poor second - except for Paddy Ashdown, whose concern for taxation pushes crime into third place. Tony Blair has "spir doctor" above taxation, while John M: has "cricket" in third, followed by slear "Integrity" is the only word on which Paddi Ashdown leads his rivals. And "useless": It's the handsdown loser on all lists. Quite **William Hartstor**

earthly Why can't real men cry?

David is standing on the pavement. While everyone else lingers in the lobby choosing free postcards and discussing whether they can hold on for the loo, David has raced for the safety of the outdoors. It's drizzling, and quite appropriate since we've been wallowing in dead babies, incipient tuberculosis and pigs' entrails all afternoon. It rains constantly in Jude, and everybody suffers. Let it never be said that the Russians held the monopoly in gloom.

Anyway, David's pouting, and glaring at a dump bin. I lean against a poster for Last Man Standing. "You," I say, "have been crying". This is an excellent tactic if you want to draw attention away from your own mascara-smeared cuffs. We are surrounded by people going "that was wudderful. Fadtastic" and breathing through their mouths.

"No I haven't." he says. His eyes



propaganda poster. Men are darling when they do that I-don'tcare-if-I-grazed-my knee act. He does a long, snotty snort. "The air conditioning in that place is too strong," he says. "My nose is all blocked".

Jules comes out. "Werrr," she ages". "It was okay," says David. "I like films like that. They cheer me up." Jules gives him a look. "So what was that snuffling, then?" "Nothing. My nose was blocked." your eyes?" "Look," he says, "I'm really tired at the moment. They

says, "I haven't cried that much in "Well, how come you kept rubbing were hurting." I did see David cry once, or at

least go pink and start dribbling, which is roughly the same thing. It was the night England dropped out of Euro 96, and every Pringle sweater in condon was blubbering into his pit? I haven't had such a good laugh since Squidgygate. I remind him of this. He shows no shame. "Yeah, but that was football. Of course I cry about important things. I just never cry in films. I laughed when Bambi's mother died. I talked all the way through Debra Winger's deathbed speech in mrs of Endearment."

Jules and I exchange one of that," says David, "Just because you women can't stop snivelling into your cappuccinos doesn't make it a virtue. Nothing would get done if we all burst into tears every time we broke a fingernail". "My fingernails mean a lot to

me," says Jules. "I invested a lot of time in my fingernails." We play chicken through the traffic on Clapham High Street. It's the end of the rush hour and the pavements are crowded with Big Issue vendors. I can't let the subject

"Never." An image from lunchtime flits across my memory. "Bet I canmake you cry right now."

Road: M8 Glasgow Jil Queenslie

eak time delays in both directions.

SO₂ Good Good Good Good Good Good

rest. "You really don't cry?"

"Try it." He pulls the "I come from Yorkshire" arm-fold. Remember that call you made to Madrid before we went out?" "Үетт?"

"I don't remember you hanging

David goes white, sticks out his hand and disappears in a cloud of black-cab diesel. Jules and I wade on through the kebab weappers. "Was that true?" she asks. "Naah. Just an experiment." "Good one". We pass a kid and his dad. Kid

is just-pre-testosterone: old enough to recite the names of the 1963, too young to insist on changing his own sheets. His mouth is a wobbly "O" and his fists are clenched. "I don't want to," he wails. Papa stands three paces away. "Stop it, Michael," he intones. "You're too old to cry." At the bus stop, a man in a corduoroy bomber jacket is locked in denial with his girlfriend. "I was having trouble with my contacts," he says in that irritated whine usually reserved for younger sisters, "and anyway, I think I'm coming down with a cold." Her laughter rings out over the hydraulic pshht as the bus door opens.

weekend weather



Forecast: Heavy rain will be working its way north across Scotland along with strengthening winds. However, brighter weather is going to follow into the south while the Northern Isles get sunny spells and showers with lighter winds. N. Ireland will get some heavy rain with strengthening southerly winds. England and Wales will be essentially dry, bright and fairly warm, but there will be rain to the north at first. Also, rain is expected in the west later while the wind everywhere picks up from the south.

The past week: Last weekend was a mixed bag for many. Most parts enjoyed a fine day on Saturday, but Sunday was generally dull and overcast. However, Aberdeen still managed to get nearly five hours of sun-shine and a high of 19 Celsius. For the early part of the week, a couple of bands of rain edged south-east across the country, and they were followed by an area of high pressure which left most parts dry and fine for the rest of the week. The nights were quite chilly, with frost in a number of places. Eskdalemuir (Dumfries and Gal-

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Blackpool	f	14	57	Exeter	C	14	57	l	London	ŧ	15	59	Southampto	ЯÇ	13	55
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WORLD WEATHER YESTERDAY, MIDDAY (GMT): c,cloudy; t,tain; r,rain; sn,snow; s,sunny; th,thunder *previous day's figure at local

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Outlook for Today
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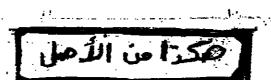
not to look directly at the Sun sky sky watchers in the UK and unless you have a special filter. northern Europe may notice specifically designed for the the Sun looking a little unfamijob. Sunglasses, smoked glasslar this afternoon when a parete are not adequate protectial eclipse takes place. Travtion against serious eve damelling at 2,300mph, 384,400 age. The safest way to observe miles out in space beyond an eclipse is by projection. Earth, the New Moon cuts across the face of the sun, independent Weatherline From about 20 clock BST

for around an hour and a quarter, the Sun will look as if some celestial monster is snaffling an ever bigger bit. At 3.15pm the eclipse will be at maximum, blotting out half the sun's surface. Then the moon will start to move off the Sun again. It will all be over by half past four. If the weather is cloudy, it is unlikely anyone will notice anything is happening. Even half the Sun other town to the clay aments to the clay aments to the clay aments to the clay aments be in the clay aments be in the clay aments be in the clay aments be included. keeps the sky pretty bright. But if it is clear, remember

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John Walsh meets John Fuller

Full of feeling

Groucho Club's crammed and sweaty Soho Room, they named the country's best poet. The judges of the classy, Bookerish Forward Prize looked at a shortlist of new poetry collections, that included the work of last year's Nobel laureate Seamus Heaney, and decided to hand the £10,000 prize money to John Fuller, for his book Stones and Fires (Chatto).

en is a

keting spin tor useless?

Poets don't get in the news much. They have to be Nobel prizewinners, or suspected of the "nation's favourite poem" before they out a quiver in the needle of public awareness. Fuller's sudden réclame will make sew headlines outside the literary pages of the broadsheet papers; but country's most notable versifiers, he has been their mentor, impresario and chief of men.

As Professor of English Literature at Magdalen College, Oxford, for the last 30 years, he has seen a bewildering number of his students become poets. and writers - many of them published for the first time by Fuller himself, in his tiny Sycamore Press imprint. The Fuller Gang amounts to a literary generation of writers in more serious poems that may positions of power. Jan its Fenton, now Professor of Poerry at Thom Gunn's heroes, Fuller's Hollinghurst, both prizewin- like the stars". They are not dus, now also at the TLS, Andrew Motion, the multifaceted poet, novelist and East Anglia... A conspiracy theorist might infer from this roll-call that some Parnassian Cosa Nostra has been operating for years, stretching from Magdalen's draughty cloisters to the heart of Grub Street, and they'd probably be right. But you can't blame Fuller for that. He does not (like, say Leavis) send his acolytes into the world to spread some moral message, nor (like, say, Eric Griffiths at Cambridge) send them out to become vitriolic critics and media hustlers. Fuller's influence is far more benign and creative. He has played the role of guru, exemplar and cher maître for so long, be has quite forgotten to give himself the airs that go

"I'm not sure about prizes," he said, when we met the next day, which was National Poetry Day. "I don't know how far you can seriously raise public consciousness about poetry. Having a 'National Poetry Day', like a No Smoking Day, is just shelving the problem. Things which should by rights be every day are not best served by these things." He is happy, however, by the way poetry's profile has changed since he started out in 1961 with his debut collection, Fairground Music. "When I began, poetry was very academic. You published little pamphlets from fancy presses. It was rather... chaste. There wasn't much public reading. Then there was poetry and jazz, which I don't think worked, though I love jazz. Then there was the moment when the American Beat poets arrived in Oxford in 1957, and were very charming and exciting... But you get these lurches towards popularity all the time. In the Thirties, don't forget, you had Anden putting poetry on the cinema screen, with Grierson and the GPO film unit. Whenever there's a move like that, I think it's very healthy. It's always good to show that poetry isn't the little depressed lyric people believe it to be, that it's something bigger."

"Little depressed lyrics" are not what you get from Mr

t 7.40 pm on Fuller. His prodigious talents Wednesday have been sprayed over 13 have been sprayed over 13 verse collections, six novels, an anthology of love poetry, critical works, children's books. His ability to turn his hand to the most demanding and recherché poetic forms, from the alexandrine to the double dactyl, makes him the natural heir of WH Anden, whom he holds in virtually unquestioning reverence. His technical skill is seen at its best in his light verse, in poems like "Valentine", a beguilingly varied litany of louche desires ("I'd like to make you Charlotte Russe / I'd like to make you reproduce") that many pornographers, or the creators smitten poetry-lovers, disdaining the products of the greeting-card industry, have mailed to their sweethearts in mid-February.

"That was its purpose, of course," murmurs Fuller. He is a modest, rather diffident man, to a hefty percentage of the happier explaining some prosodic detail than talking about himself. There's a wariness about his light blue eyes as they lock on to yours (sitting with him, you soon slide into tutorial mode) and across his acre of brow worry-lines run like musical staves, waiting to

be soothed with notes. For all the game-playing skill of his light verse, there's a core of difficult, hard-won, secretive wisdom about his spirits for years at the Times neither is their creator. This Literary Supplement; Mick has bothered Fuller's critics Imlah the poet and farmer and fans alike in the past. no feeling. They point to the way the titles of his collections -The Mechanical Body, The Beautiful Inventions - draw Larkin biographer, now Pro-fessor of Creative Writing at attention to their inorganic essence, their made-up-ness. They go on about his "artifice" and his "civilised obliquity". Did be mind? "Hmmm. I think a lot of

people can write poems that are howls of anguish. I think I've probably written such ous part of what poetry does. It's a come-on. It's more than just being clever. It's saying, here is a verbal artefact. You, dear reader, will have to work this out, and will get pleasure

together at a college Christmas drove off to Scotland and was fact, like a retired gangster in Preston". The poem "History" history and how chronically we fail to make sense of it - to read the signs, to interpret "the right way to proceed", to learn from past failings, before yielding to Fuller's aching desire to memorialise his old friend, with his gleeful piss-taking and his valedictory "Take care, laddie". The second poem, "Europe", is a tour de force of 22 sonnets, in which things and then torn them up. force of 22 sonnets, in which But I think obliquity is a seriwith the detachment of an astronaut and sees nothing but internecine strife, bitter violence, civilisation suddenly

lived our lives in parallel, as out of some ridiculous, spurining authors and presiding open to simple exegesis, and academics, as fathers. We were our ideal. It's so depressing." Fuller is 60 next year, but dinner, said farewell, and he doesn't look it. (He looks, in

suit a Pringle sweatshirt and a puzzles away at the concept of set of knuckledusters). One studies his face for signs that he is turning into his father, Roy Fuller, the poet, who famously held a career in a building society all his life; but the father's lean features and galloping-major moustache belong to another generation. "He played a kind of role as Corporation Man," remembers the son fondly. "He liked his professional life. He was very good on committees, unexpectedly gregarious. to life in the Woolwich, which imagined as a slumberous, hated the way building soci- having to shave off his mous-

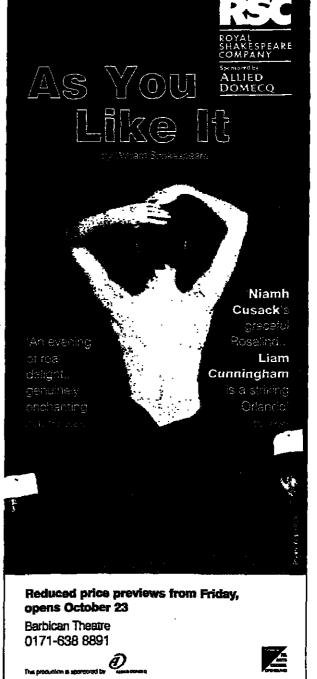
He was in the RNVR during and spur each other on. the war, you see, working as a naval air-fitter. My mother and I moved around the country with him while he was training He was a shy man, but he came and suddenly he was whipped off on a troop carrier. I rememhe cared for enormously. He ber him going. I remember him eties were tending - how they tache because you weren't sup-

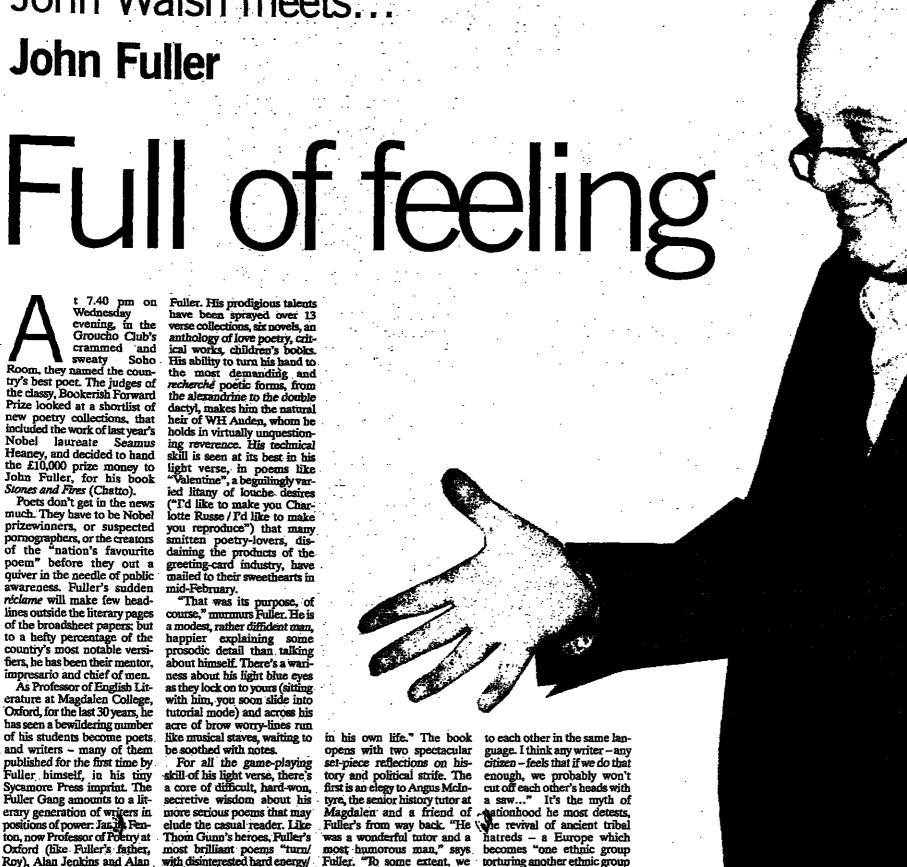
"Favouritism? I wouldn't call it that," says Fuller defensively. "It wasn't a college duty. These were just students I got on with or thought were interesting, or were keen to write. I mean you couldn't have everybody up to stay. Some students might not want to write..." And the ones who gravitated to Fuller's side would he nurse their talents along? "It sounds so impersonal and deliberate, put like that. I was just being friendly. And most of my friends now

are former students." Was there a competitive atmosphere in the cottage? "Perhaps slightly competitive," he admitted. "It was creating an environment where you could get work done. Perhaps it was selfish because it was very good for me. If you've got a houseful of people who know they have to get up, work all morning, do something energetic in the afternoon, and read aloud in the evening, it's stimulating. And they still

Professor Fuller does best. Thirty books done, his Collected Poems published next year, a new generation of aspirant bards to be guided and calmed down, a fresh set of projects, new poetic forms to tackle ("I found the Pushkin stanza very difficult," he confesses, "but I took it that the difficulty it created was part of the point..."). A prodigious and apparently tireless maker, he is a one-man assembly line of poetry, in which every invention is a refinement of the last, and technical brilliance is only a means to an end. "I think a lot of the things I do luckily don't get noticed, and I'm glad," he said finally. "A poem should be just a thing you read and it should work on you. You shouldn't be able to

come. Alan [Hollinghurst] still comes a lot, and writes. I think there's a nice feeling that we're getting on with it..." Getting on with it is what





threatening beast in a cage. "Urbanity? You know what urbanity means? It means two men who live in the same city who are able to talk to each other in the same language"

from doing so. But what it contains at its heart is a form of truth about emotions or feelings which is to a deegree gen-eralised or hypothesised or fictionalised. There are long poems of mine that are full of feeling, but transposed, that are one step away from anything I might say in my own voice." He shook his head. "Quite honestly I don't understand what more people require of you."

Stones and Fires, the prizewinning collection, offers something new to Fuller fans:

the spectacle of a poet becom-ing, simultaneously, more public and more private than they had encountered before. The judges' chairman, Alan Jenkins (that's right, one of Fuller's exstudents, but an incorruptible chap and a previous Forward winner) was in raptures: "The book has all the virtues Fuller's known for, the verbal richness, the wit, the dandy styl-ishness, but there's also a lot of took to mean the Balkans) kind of world-wee - coming his usual cool urbanity. Fuller strongly through the poems. jumped on the word like a The subjects aren't altogether policeman. "Urbanity? You

but yes, this sonnet sequence is newish for me. I was very affected by the Bosnian conflict right back in its early days, say 1991/2. I found myself profoudly affected by things I was reading about and seeing - in particular, a photograph of someone having their head cut off with a saw. I was on holiday in Corsica at the time, just lounging around, and started writing these sonnets. It was something to do with the distance I was from home, about being in the Mediterranean, in the middle of Europe, and being able suddenly to think about the place in some kind of perspective, while being very trou-

bled about Bosnia..." It struck me that the language of the sonnets displayed a cold fury, a disgust with "Europe's stinking armpit and deep feeling - grief, sorrow, a that's pitched some way from

"I have written public started as mutual societies and poems before," said Fuller, now they were becoming limited companies. He loathed that. My father was an idealist and a socialist, very strongly so, and I think some of his later cultural attitudes, the old-bufferdom that some people complained of, were very misunderstood."

Roy Fuller died a couple of years ago and the poems devoted to his memory in Stones and Fires are some of the best Fuller has ever written. In particular there's "A Cuclshoc' which has the unusual distinction, for a poem about a toy badminton set, of reducing all who read it to tears, including your humble scribe. The title is a childish mangling of "shuttlecock" in a letter to a father who is abroad; the image of the shuttlecock, hovering suspended and not-quite-reachable in the air, assimilates both the father

"It as an unusual poem for me because it uses a real letter that I'd written to my father," said Fuller. "When new, but you feel there's a know what urbanity means? It my mother died, I got a whole deeper connection with events - means two men who live in the lot of papers, and I didn't invited to stay in vacations, in and with the loss he's suffered same city who are able to talk remember writing this letter. order to write and swap ideas

absent and, 50 years later, the

father dead.

back a bit too early - I remember a V2 rocket blew our windows out in Blackheath.") The war provided him with a slew of images that appeared in later work, especially in The Burning Boys, which opens with a small boy spying from a cupboard as his sexy aunt and her friend take turns weighing their breasts in the kitchen scales: "and I remember newsreels of Belsen - it must have been a conscious decision to show those sights to everyone, and probably rightly."

posed to have moustaches in

basic training." John was an only child. He spent the war

years in Blackpool with his

mother and her mother, then

the family moved south at the

end of the war and settled in

south London. ("We came

His career as an Oxford don has constituted a kind of constantly shifting and renewed family life for some years; Fuller and his wife Prue, who teaches handicapped children in Oxford, have a cottage in Wales, where the most creative of his students (or wellfavoured, or pushy, depending on whom you talk to) are



Family ties: Lorraine Ashbourne as May in 'Fool for Love'

Photo: Geraint Lewis

How's your father?

THEATRE Fool for Love, Donmar Warehouse, London

By Paul Taylor

've heard of keeping it in the family, but this is ridiculous, Having just played Jocasta, mum and wife to Oedipus, that terrific actress. Lorraine Ashbourne, heads straight into the role of May, the woman who has much more than a blood bond with her halfbrother in Sam Shepard's Fool for Love. It's only a matter of time before Ms Ashbourne makes her operatic debut as Sieglinde.

In Ian Brown's revival at the Donmar Warehouse, the actress is partnered by Barry Lynch, who plays rodeo rider Eddie, the sibling who has tracked her down to a godforsaken motel room on the edge of the Mojave Desert and is doomed to go on loving her and leaving her for ever. These are two of my favourite performers and they pull off certain riffs of extraordinary intensity here. But, as with all the English productions I've ever seen of this author's work. I kept getting the uncomfortable sense that what I was witnessing was actually a talented team on Whose Line Is It Anyway? who'd been told to improvise a Sam Shepard play. American actors have equivalent difficulties with the pauses and Wanorately veiled power games of Harold Pinter.

Before Fool for Love, a Shepard play in which the woman gets as good a dramatic deal as the man seemed about as likely a proposition as a refuge for battered wives run by Ernest Hemingway. In Brown's production, though, the balance arguably swings too much in May's favour. The look-at-me, insecure swagger of Lyncks macho preenings – all that show-off lassooing of the bed knobs and the ludicrously phallic cleaning of his shot-

gun - is exquisitely funny and pathetic. But, to my mind, it showed us this character from May's point of view and not enough from his own. Lynch is better at projecting the calm, dangerous insolence with which Eddie runs laconic, self-amused rings round the ill-at-ease, slow-witted hunk (very well played by Martin Marquez) who comes to call on May and gets treated to the dreadful story of how their incest arose and the resulting suicide of Eddie's mother.

The drama takes place under the monitoring eye of the Old Man (Gawn Grainger) who fathered them - an irresponsible phantom who interrupts the action with his special pleadings and his shifty, highly American championing of fantasy over fact. Brown's production is at its most powerful when this figure forsakes his lofty chair and enters the motel room, creating a wonderful cir-cuit of quiet disturbing energy as he gazes at his daughter gazing at her brother / lover. At first invading the space with a misplaced proprietorial confidence (adopting a position on the bed that brazenly mirrors the base his son took up), the Old Man is eventually reduced to a coward's unlovely wriggling as he tries to evade facing up to the terrible consequences of his stubborn, deluded individualism. Less than utterly convincing in her wall-banging paroxysms of demented frustration earlier in the play, Ashbourne beautifully transmits the drained stoical realism of May at the end.

Clive and kicking

There's something iffy about the BBC simply buying programmes readymade from a rival channel. Whatever the licence fee is for, you suspect it's not meant to be siphoned into big-money transfers. In importing Clive Anderson from Channel 4 after Clive James had already exported himself to ITV, BBC1 has plainly chosen to do unto others as it has had done unto itself. They swiped

our Clive: we'll have yours. So, business as usual for Clive Ander-son All Talk (BBC1, Sun). No one would stump up umpteen squillion to play Alan Shearer in the midfield holding role, and the Beeb didn't nab the last surviving chat-show host to front a legal queries phone-in. To make him feel as if he hasn't moved at all, the set has undergone only subtle modifications: a handyman has shifted a couple of planks, maybe changed the odd lightbulb. In one bold innovation, the rancid stand-up routine is now delivered from behind the desk. But the gag about the names of Paula Yates's children was a clear signal that the show plans to make nostalgic expeditions

to familiar pastures. The guest list had a formulaic look about it: as usual, one crackpot and two moneypots trooped on to flog their wares. Madame Vasso's evasions gave Anderson a rare chance to prove that he really did use to be a barrister, a claim we've always had to take on trust. He's actually a lawyer in the same way that Adam Faith is a rock star. Dosh (C4, Thurs), a kind of Money Programme for financial neanderthals, would not have been made if Faith hadn't once had a sexier job. Similarly, Anderson could never sell himself as this dull, bald man-without-qualities if he hadn't been at the Bar in another life.

Except Madame Vasso wasn't playing ball, crystal or otherwise, Fergiegate being, as far as she was concerned, sub iudice. And somehow it looks as if a gagging order has been slapped on Anderson, too. Although he was hired as the only chatshow host prepared to be rude without donning the armony-plating of a fictional personality, the BC can less afford to offend guests than Channel 4. Hence Anderson could be as cruel as he liked to Madame Vasso, who will soon no doubt disappear for good into the hole she crawled out of. But Ben Elton went mysteriously unmugged for using The spectre of Whose Line Is It Anyway? vanishes completely.
To 30 Nov. Donnik. Warehouse, London WC2 (0171-369 1732)

the royal we (cf the Duchess of York's in the bra wars. Her profile boosted by royal me). And Eddie Murphy was modelling for Gossard, Sophie Ander-person?



never invited to explain, as he would have been at Anderson's old address,

why these days his films are so crap. Equinox (C4, Sun), investigating transport disasters, grippingly argued that some of us are better equipped by biology than others to flee a flaming aircraft or jump a sinking ship. The findings can be pretty accurately transplanted to television. Just how do presenters cope when a vehicle designed for their sole use simply goes up in smoke, or suddenly capsizes? Disaster survivors, it was argued, tend to be both highly extrovert and deeply psychotic. Meaning, roughly translated, that they're nifty at elbowing other people out of the way. As they rushed to save their own lives, some survivors reported going on to autopilot and seeing in tunnel vision, a sensation that autocue readers experience on a daily basis. Look at the way Anderson effortlessly survived the ill-fated Notes and Queries, which sank without trace. One day Clive James, doubtless, will take the Murdoch shilling, and Clive Anderson will transplant his show to ITV: in the light of Equinox's research, he could call it Clive

and Kicking. In National Wonderbra Week, Playtex have been very publicly donating £1 to breast cancer research for every underwired cleavage enhancer sold.

ton has landed a job presenting Desire (C4, Thurs), a mildly irreverent new fashion magazine. It's unclear what qualifications she brings: for a start, she is required to wear clothes, not something she's previously achieved in pub-lic before. With her commodities concealed, your vision is diverted to a pair of playful eyebrows that jiggle up and down with clockwork regularity. You can almost hear a producer off-camera exorting her to look animated. Either that, or she's mentally clearing a set of sleeping policemen embedded in the autocue.

Thief Takers (TTV, Thurs) is back with new recruit Amanda Pays. Pays is one of those actors who has somehow ended up famous for no particular reason. Whatever she was known for before, it wasn't for thwacking down doors in the peaked cap of a Met marksperson. Her presence here does nothing to overturn the impression that *Thief Takers* is a newspaper cartoon strip. As soon as she appeared, you wanted to place a bet on how soon two male collections would how soon two male colleagues would place a bet on who'd get into her knickers first. (More sleeping policemen. And just as lifelike.) Unfortunately, they'd made their wager so quickly you didn't even have time to get your pota-

Pays will presumably attract the thinking man's vote in next year's National Television Awards. The oddity of this year's awards (ITV, Wed) was that the presenter, Trevor McDonald, also picked up a gong. "And the winner is ... me!" He'd obviously have no trouble crawling from a smoking wreckage.
Across the Atlantic, though, they make
their oddities bigger and bolder. Vince Gill, who presented the 1996 Country Music Awards (BBC2, Sat), was nominated for seven of them, and won two (the second with Dolly Parton. Who, it was confirmed in the Chancellor's Bournemouth speech, is definitely not a Wonderbra woman.)
The CMAs, incidentally, cleared up

the mystery of how come Madame Vasso's potationass former client is forever flying Concorde to the States. In Nashville, a porky woman with a larval Less widely reported is their pocketing of the other £19. That's a big sack of stage and made a lot of noise. Wynonna, flow of incandescent red hair came on potatoes, as they say in Madame Vasso's a country superstar with muchas patatas. house. But Playtex are not clear winners has never been seen in Britain. Could



Thurs), Geoff Watts was trying to find out why spiritual healing has been gaining popularity in recent years, and whether there's anything to it. On the one hand, we had healers and their supporters (including the odd GP) talking about connecting to a higher - or possibly a deeper aspect of ourselves, and channelling a universal love energy. On the other, we had conventional medicine asserting that any improved affective state could be explained in terms of what we know from psychoneuroimmunol-

ogy about the endocrinal system... Stop right there: I think we have an answer.

to admit that they've got the customer relations side of things served bodies can tell us. This week it was all about plants and all sown up, with all this comforting talk of love and higher selves. animals - what we can learn from the lumps of moss found

the slight but inescapable implication that healing is what doctors fail to do. Most of all, they've got simplicity on their side - it all seems so transparent.

The fact is, healing is about as transparent as fog. Some of what Watts was told here was superficially logical gibberish like the man who claimed that conventional medicine hasn't learnt the lessons of modern physics concerning the interconvertibility of matter and energy; the body can be addressed as energy, just as it can be addressed as matter (well, horseshit can be converted into food, but that doesn't mean you can eat it). More of it didn't even pretend to be rational - indeed, it flaunted its irrationality, knowing that this is attractive to many people. It's very hard for the scientific mind to grapple with woolliness; as a result, several of the voices here ended up snarling impotently about returning to the Middle Ages.

Contrast this with Bodies of Evidence (Radio 4, Weds), in Whatever else you may think about spiritual healers, you have which Tony Robinson asks scientists what millennia-old pre-

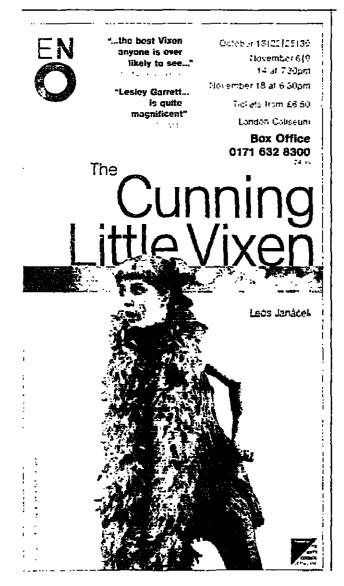
n God in a White Coat (Radio 4. Look how shrewdly they've co-opted the word "healing", with among the clothing of Otzi, the 5,000-year-old Austrian iceman, and from the mistletoe pollen in the stomach of the 2,000-yearold Lindow Man (aka Pete Marsh). The conclusions in both cases were tentative: Otzi may have taken the moss either for insulation or to wipe his bottom; the presence of mistletoe may indicate either ritual slaughter or severe mental difficulties (since

it was apparently a popular way of treating fits). But the joy of this series isn't so much what you find out as the lucidity and enthusiasm with which it is explained to you. Part of the credit must go to Robinson, who abandons some of his more irritating mannerisms to show that he has a knack for reducing complicated matters to simple terms; much of it, you suspect, is a matter of culture. For doctors, technical language can be a way of establishing their authority, both to lay people and to colleagues. For palaeobotanists, who probably don't count many fellow palaeobotanists in their immediate social circle, the ability to explain what they do is a vital

ston, is one of nine radio features producers who have recently make it better? A little more faith.

been made redundant in Bristol - in his case, apparently, because the received wisdom at the BBC is that there is no longer a market for the sort of programme he makes. Meanwhile, over at Radio 1, Andy Kershaw has been shifted from his slot on Sunday nights between 10 o'clock and midnight, to make way for a new programme called The Album Show - mmm, that sounds like a tasty recipe for fresh sounds and musical styles. Kershaw will have a new slot running from midnight until two o'clock on a Monday morning, those listeners who stay up will be able to hear the melancholy sound of him rattling together all those awards he's won in his years at Radio 1. You will notice they make a somewhat hollow sound.

In both cases, what you're seeing is the progressive blanding out of the BBC as it worries more and more about appealing to the widest possible audience. The Corporation is retreating from eccentricity, from programmes that tickle the intelligence or offer a little shock of novelty, and falling back on reliable crowd-pleasers. It has lost confidence in the intelligence of the By the way, the producer of Bodies of Evidence, Andrew John-general public and in its own standards. You know what would



Steve Hill / Newsteam THE PLAY THE MOVIE THE GIG Laughter on the 23rd Floor Lone Star Metallica Gene Wilder is the star of a 1950s TV John Sayles's epic crosses the thriller with the Western, interweaving plottines about mysterious deaths and hidden family The biggest thing to have come out of San Francisco since Armistead Maupin, with overview satire show written by a bizame assortment of characters in Roger Haines's production whom they have precisely nothing in common. The world's leading heavy metal of Neil Simon's autobiographical play, the histories. With Chris Cotton, Elizabeth latest in a stream of his comedies to hit combo have (gasp) shorn their locks and Peña and new Hollywood heartthrob KEY these shores. Matthew McConaughey embarked on a UK tour. critical Ryan Gilbey giggled at the heavy metal pomposity but "these songs linger in your ears long after the painful ringing has subsided". "An epic set," ejaculated the Express. "This relentless assault on the David Benedict enjoyed *more successful Adam Mars-Jones admired its aims but gags than you have any right to expect". felt "it badly needs a shot of adrenaline". Wilder can say more with a raise of the view EXCELLENT "Stands head and shoulders above most eyebrow than four pages of script. A must recent American movies, cheered Time for comedy-lovers," applauded the Mirror.
"Could transform Simon's British fortunes. Out. "Sayles ... retains all his qualities of intelligence, political acuteness and senses did somewhat undersell narrative lucidity," judged Sight & Sound.
"A richly textured epic," proclaimed the You will laugh a lot," agreed the Times. "Wilder ... a masterclass of technique, Metallica's more subtle, complex GOOD qualities," whispered the Times, "Crudely timing and charm," saluted the Mail. Times. "We can only wince at the didactic clumsiness," signed the FT. refined noise ... a worn-out pastiche of "Dire's the word," growled the Standard. itself," snorted the Birmingham Post. on view OK Earls Court tonight: then Cardiff, Manchester and Sheffield on Mon, At the Queen's Theatre, London W1 Cert 15, 135 mins. At the Curzon West End (0171-369 1722) and across (0171-494 5590) Tues and Wed. the country. POOR Rolf Saxon runs Wilder a our view A sprawling but typically A finalitys-inducing sound ゴ close second in this very iconoclastic film from level and an electrifying American comedy. DEADLY

Living life for the common people

The glue that sticks the nation together or a barrier to the development of a mature democracy? John Campbell investigates the role of the Queen in today's society

The Queen: A Biography of Elizabeth II by Ben Pimlott, HarperCollins, £20

the news that Ben Pimlott was writing a biography of the Queen raised eyebrows. It seemed an incongruous, even perverse, project for a hitherto exclusively Labour historian. Why should he want to do it? Would he have the necessary contacts? What could he possibly bring to a subject already copiously covered by well-connected royal specialists like Elizabeth Longford, Anthony Holden and (earlier this year)

Such doubts reflected a long-standing convention – combining academic snobbery with inverted social snobbery – that serious writers did not bother with the monarchy. The Queen was both personally uninteresting and politically unimportant: not so much beyond criticism – as she was at the beginning of her reign – as beneath it. The Independent in its early years had a policy of burying royal stories in three lines at the bottom of page two, or even ignoring them entirely. Elsewhere gossip had replaced gush, but royal-watching was still the preserve of the

keting spin

Today all that has changed. The functions and future of the monarchy are now matters of consuming interest - not least in The Independent. (Only members of the Government and Opposition still dare not join in). By luck or shrewd judgement, Pimlott's book is perfectly timed to give historical focus to this bur-

He has succeeded triumphantly in his unlikely project. He has written a book which can be enjoyed and admired by people who would never have imagined reading any previous royal biography. He has done it not by adapting his approach to the conventions of the genre, but by deploying the same skills he has previously brought to Harold Wilson and Hugh Dalton. What he has written is not a "royal biography" at all, but a political biography whose subject happens to be not a Prime Minister or Chancellor of the Exchequer, but Queen. He has got round the problem that so little is known about Her Majesty's private opinions not by speculating on the basis of hints and hearsay but by sticking firmly to the sources he has been able to assemble - which turn out to be surprisingly good. If the result is a study heavily weighted to the monarch's public role than that it and the study heavily weighted to the monarch's public role than that it are in the study heavily weighted to the monarch's public role than the study heavily weighted to the monarch's public role than the study heavily weighted to the monarch's public role than the study heavily weighted to the monarch's public role than the study heavily weighted to the monarch's public role to the monarch of the study heavily weighted to the monarch's public role to the monarch of the study heavily weighted to the s lic role, then that is entirely proper in portraying a woman who has almost totally subsumed her private personality in her pub-

Pimlott is frankly less in rested in the Queen berself than in the changing iconography of the monarchy over her lifetime: the way her image has been manufactured and manipulated from babyhood onwards to suit the political needs of the Goverument and Establishment of the day. This has its personal side: the rapturous accounts of "the little Princesses", Lilibet and Margaret Rose, were a priceless antidote to the Abdication; pictures of Elizabeth in ATS uniform doing her bit with a spanner helped the war effort; her wedding was an excuse for the first national celebration after the war, temporarily dispelling the gloom of economic crisis and continuing rationing

a real effect in reinforcing national identity, the idea of a New Elizabethan Age marking a genuine sense of an optimistic new beginning; 25 years later the Silver Jubilee — in the middle of another period of national doom and gloom - showed a remarkable persistence of faith in the monarchy; while even last year, with most of the magic gone, the appearance of the Queen and of the VE-Day anniversary. Pimlott shows how both Harold Wil- and press secretaries - first came to terms with and then tried



Smiling in the face of national dispeter: The Queen and Jürgen Klinsmann at Wembley, June 1995

But it also has a more mystical aspect. The Coronation had son and Ian Smith sought to use the Crown for opposite purposes at the time of Rhodesian UDI; how the Thatcher Government exploited Prince Andrew's participation as a helicopter pilot to fuel patriotic enthusiasm for the Falklands war, and how skilfully - at least in the early years of the reign - different images of the Queen were projected to appeal to different countries of the Commonwealth. He meticulously marks the steps by her mother on the palace balcony was still the symbolic climax which the Palace, in the person of successive private secretaries

- unsuccessfully - to control the ever-growing public appetite for information about the royal family. He is gently satirical about some of the early manifestations of loyal gush; but coming at the subject from a primarily political perspective, he has a keen sense of the strategic calculations that lay behind even the most sickly fantasy-mongering - until, that is, it all went hor-

lent sources. He has naturally made good use of the public him one.

records, the Royal Collection (up to 1952) and the papers of politicians; he is particularly strong on the dealings of Labour Governments with the Palace on sensitive matters like the Civil List. But as well as the familiar published diaries, he has found sharp insights in the unpublished diary of Jock Colville, who between his two spells as Churchill's private secretary served Princess Elizabeth in the same capacity.

The Avon papers have yielded a regular correspondence between the Queen and Sir Anthony Eden, after his fall, commenting frankly on the performance of his successors. The Kennedy Archive in Washington has thrown up a chatty letter to JFK, mixing politics and family gossip; another letter from the Royal Collection to her racing manager Lord Porchester, all about Dr Nkrumah, has somehow slipped through the Palace net. He has also got hold of a correspondence with her dressmaker, Hardy Amies, full of tart reminders of the need for economy. None of this is sensational, but it gives the book more of the spice of the Queen's own words than previous biographies

Then there is interview material, a high proportion of which is openly attributed. Inevitably there is still a good deal of "a courtier commented", "a former lady of the bedchamber recalls", referenced in the notes as "confidential interview", But those who have spoken on the record include the former principal private secretary Lord Charteris, the former assistant private secretary Sir Edward Ford and - most remarkably Princess Margaret, Such high-level sources lend this book an unprecedented authority.

Pimlott is undeniably weaker on the human side. His account of the Queen's marriage is surprisingly thin. Prince Philip's rumoured infidelities do not interest him: this is a matter on which he has no serious evidence, so as a good historian he leaves it alone. More questionably, since the collapse of her children's marriages is a matter of public concern, he offers very little discussion of the Queen's alleged shortcomings as a mother. The defence that "there are many women today who find it necessary to delegate responsibility for their children because of employment that is less demanding than being a Monarch" may be true; but it is still a bit of a cop-out.

Altogether the book falls off towards the end. Perhaps recent events - the tawdry shenanigans of Charles and Di and Fergie are just too familiar, and Pimlott has nothing new to say about them. There is a sense of relief in the final chap when he gets back on his own ground with a brief summary of the case for republicanism. For a moment he seems to have some sympathy with the abolitionist argument that the survival of the monarchy corrupts the entire body politic, making us all "subjects" instead of "citizens" and rendering impossible the development of a mature democracy.

All the traditional arguments put forward since 1953 to justify the monarchy - the unity of the Empire, the preservation of the social pyramid, the model family - have crumbled. But then he turns the argument on its head: the "golden thread" of the monarchy is so inextricably woven through the national fabric that it cannot be unstitched without intolerable damage. The monarchy is not a barrier to social progress, but in fractured post-Thatcherite Britain a source of social cohesion, even a check on the excesses of the loony Right. His final paragraph would not have disgraced Crawfie herself. If Pimlott was not a Contrary to expectations, he has gained access to some excel-

, Module behaviour

How does the mind work? Colin Tudge explains The Pre-History of the Mind by Steven Mithen, Thames & Hudson, £16.95

The Pre-History of Sex by Tim Taylor, Fourth Estate, £18.99

beings came to be the way we are, by two clever, articulate archaeologists. But while one (Mithen) has gone with the Caomsky's idea and suggested flow of modern evolutionary that the human mind is deas, brought them together, and generated novel and valuable insights, the other (Taylor) has fought a politically correct mides and John Tooby have but misguided rear-guard recently been comparing the

trasting forms. The influential Swiss psychologist Jean Piaget believed that the mind operates general intelligence. Even language is a manifestation of a general ability to process information. But other thinkers argue that the mind is built from a series of discrete "modules" or "domains", and is and so on. designed expressly to deal with specific problems. Thus Noam Chomsky suggested that chil-dren's ability to pick up language cannot be explained as a general exercise in problemsolving. Human language depends for its versatility and efficiency on its underlying syntax, which is broadly similar from culture to culture aithough the details differ. Children acquire the ability to apply syntax accurately even though the clues they gain from listening to people around them do not provide nearly enough data from which a general problem-solver could infer the syntactical principles. We must thick walls with narrow open- a man contriving to have his

equipped with a range of such modules, each geared to a dif-ferent task; indeed, Leda Cosmind to a Swiss army knife - a action against modernity.

Mithen points out that the collection of problem-solving explanations of how the mind tools, each operating more or works have taken two con- less autonomously. Cosmides and Tooby argue that each of these mental tools - modules has been shaped by natural as an all-purpose computer: a selection over the past few million years to solve the specific day-to-day survival problems of early humans. Thus our ancestors evolved a face recognition module, a tool-use module, a social exchange module,

In practice, neither a Piagetstyle general computer nor the Chomsky-Cosmides module model seems able to explain everything the mind can do, but Mithen shows how the two can do so together. In an adroit shift of metaphor he compares the structure of the mind to the architecture of a cathedral. The chapels around the periphery, each dedicated to a different purpose, are like the modules; while the central nave approximates to general intelligence.

wo books on how human -innate and discrete ability to columns so that people and handle words in an orderly sounds flow freely between all fashion: a language module. so it is with minds in primitive minds the modules are separate, while in the minds of modern healthy adults infor-

> evolved. Mithen suggests that shrew-like ancestors were highly specialised, meaning modular, they did a few things well. In the first true primates that evolved from those primbecame more integrated, to produce a freer flow of information. Then more modules were added and they in turn became reintegrated, and so on. The emergence of true humans (homeo habilis) around two million years ago coin-cided with the acquisition of new modules of social behaviour, and modern homo supiens appeared around 100,000 years ago when these modules were finally reintegrated to produce the computer-like, highly efficient hybrid structure that we still possess. All in all, The Pre-History of the Mind is set to join the canon of essential texts and is also an excellent read.

Tim Taylor has assembled excellent material in The Pre-History of Sex and shows that human sexual behaviour has Now, says Mithen, whereas always been more various than in the earliest Romanesque we have been led to believe. At churches the chapels and the the way-out level, cave paintnave are sequestered behind ings from stone-age Italy show conclude, said Chomsky, that ings, in late Gothic cathedrals way with an elk. At a more children are born with an the walls are reduced to homely level, man's vision of

ideal woman seems to have varied enormously from age to age, from melon-bellied terracotta stone-age "Venuses" to

modern Twiggies. How should we explain such variations? Sociologists traditionally did not try: important human behaviour is rooted in culture, they said, and vive la différence. But modern evolutionary psychologists seek unifying features, with origins lying mation flows freely.

It is easy to envisage how this cathedral-like structure has deep in biological history. Thus Devendra Singh of the University of Texas has shown that although stone-age Venuses the minds of our very early, and modern pin-ups may differ in bulk by 50 per cent or more they all have precisely the same ratio of measurements of waist to hips: 0.7. Singh then shows that women with a 0.7 waist-hip ratio suffer fewest obstetric

setbacks, and live longest. This and comparable ideas from evolutionary psychology are precisely what Taylor needs to bind his observations into a tight thesis of human sexuality, just as Mithen has done for the mind. But what does Taylor do with such insights? He derides them, suggesting that the universal preference for a waisthip ratio of 0.7 has been prompted by the centrefolds of

Singh's work may well be open to criticism but Taylor's reason for rejecting it is silly. Yet it is politically correct (and specifically in the manner of Stephen Jay Gould) to reject all explanations of human behaviour that are biological rather than sociological for (so Gould would have us believe) the biological explanations lead us into "genetic determinism" and the rejection of free will. But they don't or at least, only in knuckle brains. Taylor has been led astray. Gould has a lot to

Getting off Scott free

Hugo Barnacle re-visits an old political scandal

Rinkagate: The Rise and Fall of Jeremy Thorpe by Simon Freeman

and Barrie Penrose, Bloomsbury £16.99

to be a major theme of this exhaustive and bleakly furmy re-investigation of the Jeremy Thorpe affair. Yet the authors admit that Rinka, the Great Dane belonging to the Liberal leader's spurned lover Norman Scott, was "highly excited" that foggy night on Porlock Hill, "jumping" at the terrified gunman Andrew Newton, who "thought he was being attacked by a man-eating donkey."

Many people, had they been in Newton's shoes, at a late hour on a lonely moor not a million miles from the old stamping ground of the Hound of the Baskervilles, and had they happened to have a pistol handy, might have found themselves tempted to do as Newton did, and open fire before the fangs came any closer.

Simon Freeman and Barrie Penrose concede that many people might have been tempted to shoot Norman Scott as well. He was an exasperating tar-baby of a man who was unable to make his way in life except by battening on to people who felt sorry for him, and repay those people except with tantrums and petty acts of spite.

Freeman and Penrose are convinced that Newton was sent to murder Scott, not simply to frighten him, and only So his story went for nothing. failed because the ancient Mauser jammed after firing the one round that killed indirectly saved her master's

the innocence of Rinka seems changing his story when ease with which Thorpe had caught, and the jury at Jeremy Thorpe's trial did not find him a reliable witness

> As to who hired Newton, it was a friend of Thorpe's called David Holmes. The contract fee of £10,000 was major spuds in 1975, improbably large for a mere frightening job. Thorpe obtained it, by written requests over his own signature, from the millionaire philanthropist Jack Hayward in the Bahamas, claiming it was to cover Liberal Party election expenses. Police traced it by bank paperwork, through a secret Party account in Jersey, on to Hohnes, and on to Newton. They also recovered Thorpe's letters to Hayward. But as soon as you mention offshore bank accounts to a jury, they get

Holmes, as Thorpe's codefendant along with the two Welsh businessmen who recommended Newton for the job, did not testify. The only witness who said Thorpe had been planning for years to kill Scott was Peter Bessell, sometime Liberal MP for Bodmin. who was equally unable to But Bessell was another selfconfessed liar, with a string of failed businesses and duped creditors behind him. Furthermore his hair was dyed an unconvincing shade of orange.

Scott himself was more than pleased to tell the court, as he told everyone he met, about Rinka, so the poor animal his homosexual affair with Thorpe. A guilt-ridden cradie life. But Newton, a self-con- Catholic, he stated that homofessed liar and fantasist, kept sexuality was an incurable dis-

infected him back in 1961, and that Thorpe should therefore have looked after him for the rest of his life. Bent on revenge ever since Thorne dumped him, he had continually pestered the man for cash while threatening to go public. Freeman and Penrose insist that this was not calculated blackmail, it was just Norman being Norman. but the jury may have felt less confident on the matter. Scott was yet another dodgy witness.

rose, but it was handed down for the same reason as in the OJ Simpson trial: the prosecution didn't present their case very well. Even so, Thorpe had already resigned the Liberal leadership and was soon forced to quit public life altogether. In an interview with the authors last year, a satisfied Scott "laughed and slapped himself, delighted" that Thorpe is now dying of Parkinson's disease in obscurity.

The not-guilty verdict is an outrage to Freeman and Pen-

As political scandal, Rinkgate is old news. But as a story of people's failure to recognise or tackle their own shortcomings - Thorpe's hypocrisy, Scott's self-pity - it is quite instructive.



Guns and poses

Roy Foster admires the style of an Irish political mistress

Hazel: A Life of Lady Lavery 1880-1935 by Sinead McCoole, Lilliput, £25 Michael Collins: A Life by James Mackay, Mainstream, £17.50

he "art of biography" has been replaced by the selling of Lives, and these two books provide an contradicted in McCoole's unassuming but decisive treatment of her life.

In fact she never really lived in Ireland: instructive contrast. Michael Collins arrives landed with hype, "under strict embargo", "remarkable...hitherto unpublished material", "an important bearing on the solution of the present [Northern Irish] dilemma". In fact it says nothing substantially new, and says much of that inaccurately. The first biography of Hazel Lavery arrives unhyped, but turns out to be new in every way, containing material which radically changes perceptions of several important figures from the early 20th century - including, as it happens, Michael Collins.

Hazel Lavery effortlessly attracted publicity all her life. Yet previous attempts at biography were foxed by the apparent disappearance of papers, recovered by Sinead McCoole, many of surpassing political interest. One of the great beauties of the early 20th century, she stares out of society portraits and early Beaton photographs swathed, turbaned, bejewelled; most famously, as the personification of Ireland on the bank notes of the new state in the 1920s. Beaton's description captures it: "that goatish Luini mask the ravishingly chiselled, rabbity nose, ruby lips cloven into a pout, wistful hare eyes, pink lids..."

The mystique was facilitated by being married to an influential painter, John Lavery, who possessed a good eye for a "public" subject but also remained fascinated by his much younger wife and painted her obsessively until (and on) her death-bed. It also owed much to her own genius for reinvention. Born into the self-made Chicago bourgeoisie, her Irish connections were distant. It is a Jamesian story: the "original" American girl who falls in love with Europe and acts as a catalyst for upheavals which end in ultimate disillusionment. But her importance in Irish history is established by this book.

Her salon, her love affairs, her political nationalism have long made up one kind of myth behind the achievement of Irish nationalism. Because this hinted at liaisons with heroic figures like the IRA guerrilla supremo Michael Collins, a countering myth swiftly grew up: Hazel Lavery as a self-deceiving fantasist, who invented love affairs with glamorous revolutionaries as soon as they were safely dead. Faced with scraps of documentary evidence, the more pious authorities were unabashed: Hazel had fabricated letters to berself, or inter-

the centre of her life. As a hostess she used lack of money to stylish advantage. She could also, like Diana Cooper, cash in on her fortunate face by advertising Pond's Cold Cream or driving a free Armstrong Siddeley. Intelligent as well as witty, she wanted more: she found it in Ireland. After the 1916 Rising, as the political situation radicalised, she and her husband supported the radical nationalist side. Lavery, though knighted for his services as a war artist and very much part of the establishment, was by origin a Belfast Catholic; Hazel rediscovered her Irish roots. During the edgy weeks of the Anglo-Irish Treaty negotiations in 1921, Collins met Winston Churchill off-duty at Cronwell Road, while Lavery painted portraits of most of the Treaty delegates for his "Irish Collection", a project suggested by Hazel. She threw her weight behind the Treaty: an adroit social fixer, after independence she longed to run Ireland from the ex-Viceregal Lodge. Still, her private relationships remained obscure.

But she kept her letters, enabling McCoole to recount matter-of-factly several affairs with leading political figures. Hazel's relationship with Collins may not have been fully consummated - she seems to have been keener on admiration than sex - but it is clear from the notes and poems to "Dearest Hazel" that he was deeply smitten; they were almost inseparable just before his death in 1922; and her passionate mourning for him now looks like reality, not self-deception. Just as telling is the solicitude with which his old comrades (and his sister) treated her afterwards sending her the mementoes he kept of her and assuring her of his love. There are further surprises, including a garrulous amitie amoreuse with Ramsay MacDonald, unrecorded by his biographers. But the real revelation in this book is her subsequent affair with Kevin O'Higgins, the strong man of the Free State government and national leader-in-waiting, who was also gunned down by Republican opponents. His besotted letters are at utter variance with his puritanical image (and with the letters he simultaneously wroze to his wife); there is no question that this was a grand obsession. Much as with Parnell's secret letters to Mrs O'Shea 40 years before, they show a longing to be "free" polated passionate passages into them. But this, along with a good deal else, is firmly which would have appalled his associates.

This would also have appalled posterity in Ireland - at least until quite recently. Not the least important thing about this her London salon at Cromwell Road was book is the extra dimension it adds to national heroes - and the fact that Irish public opinion has been able to take this in its stride. It also gives a memorable portrait of Hazel herself. McCoole is judiciously unafraid to show that her subject could be at times foolish bigoted, selfobsessed and tedious, as well as brave, imaginative and in the end independent. Her political involvements, and the violent deaths of so many close to her, accentuated a certain seriousness. She knew her face was her fortune; a merciless small boy noted that when she cried, her tears made "tunnels" down the make-up on those spectral cheeks. But she mockingly described her own appearance during her last illness as "the imaginary child" of Gandhi and Margot Asquith. As for Lavery, he painted her throughout, finally producing a macabre study of her coffin.

Given this high-voltage material, McCoole's understated but sympathetic approach is exactly judged. Mackay is correspondingly unfortunate: heroic biogra-phy leaves little room for additions to Tim Pat Coogan's racy but widely-researched treatment of Collins six years ago. Mackay adds some details about his early employment in the Post Office and that is about it. The author's lack of familiarity with Irish conditions is constantly betrayed (the Collins family inhabited a "tiny farm 90 acres in extent"). His effusions are suggestive of a previous work, William Wallace: Brave Heart. "The true Celtic temperament" counts for much; the hero "moves with the grace of a ballet dancer" and his "generous mouth tightened dourly" at the sight of Dublin Castle. Historical background is crude and inaccurate; religion has nothing to do with the "twisted logic" of Ulster Unionism, the complex contingencies of the shift to armed resistance after 1916 are blithely ignored, staggering speculations are presented (if Collins had lived partition would probably "have been nipped in the bud", by the simple expedient of "leading a strong army into the North"). One unsubstantiated anecdote follows another in a style that alternates genteel gush with flaccid cliché ("Quite frankly, Cathal [Brugha] was jealous as hell"). The relationship with Hazel Lavery is dismissed in two glancing references. Collins was much more interesting, and much more complicated than this; so was she; so, for all the alternative reality of publicity writers, is history.



Hazel Lavery: "Ravishingly chiselled, rabbity nosed and wistful hare eyes", as Flora at a ball in 1914

Liars on a grand scale

Philip Hoare investigates the tricky business of film biography

The Real Life of Laurence Olivier by Roger Lewis, Century, £17.99

Rosebud: The Story of Orson Welles by David Thomson, Little, Brown, £20

Roger Lewis dislikes the restric-tions of biography, and scorns the made". All good fun, but one longs for petty conventions of chronology. But such conventions exist for a reason: they work and Lewis's account jumps about like a cricket on a hot plate; to misquote Dickens, it plays sad havoc with the tenses.

And yet - Lewis's empathy is admirable and his analyses of Olivier's oeuvre sincere. His headlong plunge into the world Olivier creates around himself in Wuthering Heights brings the performance to life; Olivier's Heathcliff "is not an ignorant and rude lot, he's a gypsy baron - indeterminate and with night hanging in his eyes", less felicitous are descriptions of Geraldine Fitzgerald's "washed-out, shagged-to-death look", or Gone With the Wind as "the most

something less high-octane; just as one might have done in Larry's company. And like Lord Olivier, Lewis's own prejudices get the worse of him: discussing the intimate relationship between Olivier and Noel Coward, Lewis announces, "Homosexuality is a mockery of nature...a conspiracy...as bad as anti-Semitism."

David Thomson is also given to addressing his readers: "Orson Welles lied a lot you will see. You may even decide that he lied all the time as the only available way of keeping patience with life." Although as much a biographical dissenter as Lewis, Thomson allows the facts to speak for themselves in a vital account of Welles's rise and fall. Like his subject,

Thomson becomes a showman, taking on Orson's mythomaniacal timbre: Welles does not eat a steak dinner, he inhales it. Having made his point about Welles's self-fantasy, are we then to place our trust in his cham-Another biographer's quandary. The reader - perhaps unreasonably - wants the truth, and the author knows it, worrying that unlikelihood casts a shadow on your pleasure". The problem of how to portray a character who spent his life portraying other characters is addressed by both Lewis and Thomson, and both employ subjectivity in its solution, with varying degrees of

The highpoints of Thomson's book are naturally those of Welles's life.

land and with his own company, Mercury, are vividly described; you can feel the man's energy. The War of the Worlds charade is a defining moment: Welles's sonorous interpretation deceiving a populous because of his authorial weight as a narrator in the March of Time newsreels. Welles' voice seems critical to his conception; that "superior fraudulence" which became as parodic as Olivier's. And as with Olivier, the lure of the movies was a dubious siren career call. In Welles's entry into Hollywood, Thomson sees a "Faustian bargain", yielding theatre credibility

for illusory screen success.

"People had to work hard to resolve to dislike Welles; otherwise they were seduced." Sexually, these Welles's beginnings in theatre in Ire-included Dolores del Rio, Rita Hay-promise remained unfulfilled.

worth, Vivien Leigh, Marlene Dietrich and Judy Garland; and most of those within a ten-year span. With Kane, both Welles and Thomson prove the power of that attraction: the sheer anarchic drive (fuelled by Benzedrine and two bottles of spirits a day), evading Hollywood's "industrial grip" to produce his masterpiece.

Thomson is not loathe to compare Kane with Welles, and the "dreadful, ruined narcissism" which would overtake the actor-film-maker-showman. With Kane's relative failure, Welles pursued the rest of his life at speed, doing too much, yet not enough of it seemed worth the effort". Welles's weight became a carapace of disappointment: despite nearly-great comebacks such as Touch of Evil, the

Sweet boys with insufferable parents

What happens to little stars when they grow up and stop twinkling? Peter Parker reports

The Moving Picture Boy: An International Encyclopaedia 1895-1995 by John Holmstrom, Michael Russell, £39.50

The title of John Holmstrom's iour of some of his subjects. Of Anahandsome encyclopaedia is taken tole "Bebe" Mary, an infant phefrom a song composed and sung by Kenneth Casey, "the Vitagraph Boy": "Every time my face is flashed upon the screen," he warbled unblushingly, "They say: 'Oh, he's the sweetest thing wa're saver seen." the sweetest thing we've ever seen'." The accompanying photo shows an extremely decadent-looking child, a successor whom the public preandrogynous of feature, haughty of expression, somewhat reminiscent of Adore Loomis, the repulsive child star very satisfactorily stamped to and was still acting in his sixties. death at the climax of John Schlesinger's film version of Nathanael West's The Day of the Locust. Holmstrom has been unable to find a genuine model for Adore the stars when they reached maturity (played by Jackie Haley in the film), and his book is in some ways a corrective to the popular image of the 19 ("with some grace, but here was child star as monster. This does not, a strong sense of knobbly k: "-") however, restrain him from making

couldn't possibly dump such a valuferred". "Bebe" was eventually replaced by Rene Poyen, but was immediately taken up by Gaumont

Not all child actors were so fortunate, and much of the interest and poignancy of this book comes from learning what happened to these litand stopped twinkling. While Serge Grave was still playing schoolboys at and Wesley Barry continued to

career was over by the time be was 17: he ended up "director of a rubber factory in Paris".

Some of these actors failed even to reach maturity: six-year-old Breezy Eason, Jr. "Universal's Littlest Cowboy", was crushed by a truck on one of his film director father's sets; Lawrence McKeen ("Baby Snookums") died of blood poisoning at the age of eight; and Norman "Chubby" Chaney, "resi-dent fatso" of the "Our Gang" films, died aged 17 of a glandular disorder which had seen him tip the scales at a grotesque 300 lbs.

Not all child actors were doomed, however, and even those who failed to make it as adult actors of often made use of their first-hand knowledge of the business, becoming directors, editors, cameramen or technicians. Some grow up more than others: Jackie Moran, 1937's some pleasingly astringent comteenagers into his mid-thirties, oth
ments about the talents and behave
teenagers into his mid-thirties, oth
Huck Finn and Buster Crabbe's
teenagers into his mid-thirties, oth
Huck Finn and Buster Crabbe's
the moving picture boys, Jackie
treated in our century.

space series, ended up writing scripts for Russ Meyer Tommy Kirk, "the Disney boy actor" of the 1950s. came out as gay - not something calculated to delight the distinctly conservative Uncle Walt. These are the sort of quirky details that make

Holmstrom's book so engrossing. Early child stars were worked very hard, particularly those who appeared in the "Our Gang" series of shorts, started by Hal Roach in the 1920s and still going strong into the 1940s. "Farina" Hoskins, a black actor whose hair was usually done up in braids and who was "all too often required to weep or goggle in craven fear", clocked up 106 of these films between the ages of two and ten. The rewards could be considerable. In 1916, at the age of six, "Little Billy" Jacobs was earning an astonishing \$10,000 a year. Inevitably not every diminutive star benefited so directly

Coogan, earned some \$4,000,000 during the 192Os, but was later obliged to sue his mother and stepfather in order to recover what lit-tle remained after the legal fees had been deducted. Holmstrom writes that Coogan "left the world groggy with admiration," but he never falls into this trap himself. He judges these boys rigorously, not only on what the Germans call Moppethaftigkeit, but also on their acting skills. In some cases these were negligible, and Hoistrom says so. The book is beautifully produced, profusely illustrated, contains scrupulous filmographies and two indexes (of boy actors and film titles) in addition to the general one. A companion volume on moving picture girls is forthcoming, completing a project that will be invaluable for reference and make a fascinating contribution to our knowledge of the ways in which children have been viewed and



Subliminal Cuts

shelf life

Philip Kerr reviews his

(juvenilia) I harboured literary ambitions from the moment I could read and started writing long before I had anything to say. Throughout my adolescence I turned out a series of awful poems and plays and, when I was 16, a dreadful novel called Subliminal Cuts. It was about a man having a relationship with two women at the same time. I destroyed it a long time ago.

The Berlin Noir Trilogy I set myself an almost impossible task with my first novel, March Violets, which was to recreate the atmosphere of pre-war Berlin. I wanted to imagine what would have happened if Chandler, who spent his youth in Dulwich, had moved there, rather than to California. At the time research seemed to be the key to getting published, so I spent hours tramping around Berlin; the whole process took about three years. I felt sufficiently interested in my gumshoe (Bernie Gunther) to write another two novels, but I didn't want to get stuck with him forever, so I decided to quit and try something else.

A Philosophical Investigation

I wrote this as an aptidote to all the research I'd been doing - an imaginative novel that needed no location work at all. I wrote it from a woman's perspective which was fun to do, and I think I pulled it off. Certainly. women say that I got her character exactly right.

Dead Meat Writing is such a solitary existence that it sometimes feels as though the characters you are creating are your only companions that's a huge incentive not

you are making up people to spend time with, but in A Philosophical Investigation 1 had to inhabit the mind of a killer; a nasty, but not depresing, sensation. My worst experience was working on Dead Meat. It was 1991 and lived in St Petersburg for three weeks researching the Mafia. I spent a lot of time drinking vodka with the police, who really were low-life. I was frequently carried insensible from people's

Gridiron This was set inside a modern office block and although I started off hating modern

architecture, after a great deal of research I ended up loving it. In 1995 Gridiron was awarded the Literary Review's Annual Bad Sex Prize, for the worst written description of sex published that year. I was less upset about that than my lack of redress during the ceremony: they pulled the plug on my

Esau When I was at school teachers were always telling us to "write about what you know" but I prefer to start from a position of complete ignorance. In this novel, there wasn't much opportunity to exercise my unbridled interest in sex because Esau is set on a snow-covered mountain in the Himalayas.

A Five Year Plan The title is taken from The Third Man. Tom Cruise bought the film rights before it was even written. which made some people accuse me of cynically writing screenplays disguised as novels. All I can say is that if it was that easy I'd have done it a long time ago. It took me 15 years to get published and seven of those were spent to get writers block; because near the breadline,

poetry

تعكذا من الأصل



Wildfell Hali (1848) by Anne Bronte

Plot: The novel's narrator is Gilbert Markham, young farmer and decent chap. He falls in love with Helen Graham, the beautiful, mysterious tenant of Wildfell Hall. She has a son and is presumed to be a widow. The locals gossip about Helen's "friendship" with her landlord. Prederick Lawrence. Initially Gilbert is sceptical, but subsequently overhears an intimate exchange between Helen and her friend, loses his temper and thumps Lawrence. Helen, afraid that Gilbert will push off, reveals all to him in a diary. Her dark secret is brought to light. When young she married Arthur Huntingdon, a drunkard and a rake. In standard Victorian fashion, Helen believed that the love of a good woman would reform him, but Huntingdon is beyond her redemption. She runs away to brother

Theme: Marriage is not what it is cracked up to be. Helen's union with Huntingdon proves to be a legalised misery. Good behaviour cannot purify a depraved character. Helen's virtues prove less attractive to her husband than the brandy bottle.

Lawrence who provides the

tenancy of Wildfell Hall.

After Gilbert learns the

for re-marriage. Gilbert

husband who dies of

joyfully complies.

truth, Helen returns to her

dissipation. She is now ripe

Style: The galloping melodrama of the plot is curbed by a prose which wes more to Mansfield Park than *Wuthering Heights*. The mixture of Gilbert's staid narration and Helen's emotional diary is piquan

Chief strengths: Bronte's

a 11 a fact 121

straightforward honesty of purpose constantly surprises: "I maintain it is better to depict vice and vicious characters as they are than as they would wish to appear." (Preface). Helen's boredom and despair is counterbalanced by a sympathetic understanding of Huntingdon's self destructive addiction.

Chief Weaknesses: The concluding tinkle of weddingbells is hard to accept, given the acidulous portrait of the nuotial condition.

What they thought of it then: Reviewers noted the book's skill but deplored the morbid love for the coarse" There was disapproval of the "splenetic bitter tone" and the "disgusting language". It was deemed "unsuitable for lady readers."

What we think of it now: Anne is emerging from her. role as the anaemic Cinderella of the Bronte sisters. Her forthright approach is less sexy than ber siblings, but it is also less insistently "romantic".

Responsible for: The forthcoming BBC adaptation which will suffer from the usual costume elephantiasis and remodel Wildfell Hall as a cross between Castle Howard and the Escorial.



oets for Pleasure: John Donne (Hodder Headline, £7.99) is a quite excellent selection of Donne's love poems, sacred poetry and prose, with a useful short introduction. Luminously read by Vanessa and Conn Redgrave, by turn passionate, teasing, furious and philosophical.

The Nation's Favourite Poems (BBC, 2hrs, £7.99) is an exhilarating enough capter, although its hard to come freshly to poems like "To -Daffodils" and "To Autumn" and there is the odd annoying emphasis ("I will arise and go now ..."). But a great way to relearn the bits you've

Christina Hardyment

The book you meant to read set of (1848) ronté les narrator is lam, young cent chap. He in Helen yeautiful, ant of Wildfell seat of Wildfell s

Bernard O'Donoghue celebrates the short lyric poem

facing the volume of short lyric poems has always been how to achieve with its small components the thematic weight of longer works. Christopher Reid makes it

clear from the outset in Expanded Universes (Faber, £6.99) that he is aware of this dilemma, and doesn't care. The Universes of his title come from Alexander Calder. in a wonderful passage which Reid uses as epigraph: "They weren't intended to move, although they were so light in construction that they might have swayed a little in the. breeze... The circular forms...have some kind of cosmic or universal feeling." It is a perfect definition of the free-standing but flimsy artefacts that the most successful small poems often are, while refusal to respond to love. also claiming universality for

Reid's expanded universe often make such persuasive claims for largeness, in poems like "The Fly" which transcendentalises Donne's Reid's account of our frailty, earthy, vulnerable creature: A few inches above where the fly fizzes

not yet been vouchsafed to the fly. The question is will it ever be? This is typical of how fully spare and bleak lament a Menache-like intensity)
Reid's lightness is a matter of for the senses, recalling the every word demands consid-

stance. The poems constantly Her hands have abandoned the feel exceed their unself-importance, in the Kiplingesque "Stones and Bones" for example, or by leaving unstated the too devastating logic of their conclusions. The explanations of mermaids is "something on the brain /too wicked to think about"; the question of the motivation of the audience for (strip) - "Tease" is answered curtly. "Don't ask"; there is no point in intervening in the bul-lying of a child because "it's

"Modest" is the word that has traditionally been applied to this inconclusive quality in Reid. But these endings are not negative in their effect because it is stressed throughout that our general malaise as a species comes from a bizarre principled Reid's expanded universes are ours viewed through binoculars.

too far from this desk."

Though Brian Patten comes from a very different socio-poetic milien, he shares reinforced in Armada (Flamingo, £5.99) by the powerful opening sequence of poems about his mother's death which culminates in "Five Down." a wonder-

he major challenge carriage rather than sub- old English The Seafurer:

Her tongue has let go of tasting.
Patten's great gift is the clarity and force of his language.
Here, more than in any previous book, that strength is put to the graver service of elegy, its plainness reinforced by apt literary allusion.
"Lockerbie", for example,

is a reworking of Thomas's "Aldestrop"; and the book's masterpiece is a magnificently wry reworking for the Liverpool poets of Dunbar's "Lament for the Makaris", pondering the brackets that will enclose our birth - and death-dates: Tumour-ridden, the brackets close in.

They drop against the ends of names, Not orderly, but any old how. Henri, Mitchell, McGough - watch

The brackets, any day now.

Through his career Patten has performed the remarkable feat of increasing in clarity, force and depth at the same time. Armada is his best book

Maura Dooley, like Patten, holds the attention unfailingly in Kissing a Bone (Bloodaxe, £6.95), but by very different means. Even in her longer poems (a few, such as "Home", are very short, with

eration; nothing has been written lightly. The death of her father dominates this book as Patten's mother shadows his. In the most haunting poems Dooley shows by linguistic intercutting how the humdrum consciousness is invaded by grief, as in "What Every Woman Should Carry": A credit card. His face the last time

my patience, my useless youth.

The hint of danger in that last detail brilliantly merges the contents of heart and handbag, like a postmodern "Rape of the Lock". Like both Reid and Patten, her concern is with the difficulty of giving a convincing exterior form to love which belongs to the "heart". So, behind the grave, measured control of language, Dooley holds in reserve a

capacity for the chilling -

macabre as in the volume's

Introduced by the poems on bereavement, most of Kissing a Bone is written from a precarious present which is expressed in the heading to the book's second section "The Future Memory" (a tempting overall title.) Images from photography, politically balanced with gunshooting, are the central expression of this moment. In of the tragedy of Hill's life, the solutions to the long-structure: another way of Robin Robertson's Camera



Beyond the known world:medieval man breaks through into the modern world Photo: AKG

Obscura (Colophon Press, an image of the imagination £10) "image" seems too and the unreliable fragility of abstract a term for the phys-its products (like Antonioni's ical centrality of the camera Blowup), Robertson branches and its products.

Robertson's extended poem tells the story, through fictional diaries and poems, of David Octavius Hill, the midnineteenth-century Edinburgh art photographer. All the time references are to May, between 1838 and 1870, love-poet the promise, often dashed, of spring, expressive essay in the most successful of

out into wide-ranging philosophical areas, particularly light which works like time in Shakespeare's sonnets: "The light that made it now dismantles it." It is also a figure for the failure of post-Enlightenment Scotland to attain nationhood: a tract for the

Robertson's poem is an Beyond using the camera as poem dilemma, the sequence. expanding the universe.

It combines the compulsion of a single central story with the looseness of its Menippean poetry-prose form (using, for example, Colum's She Moved Through the Fair" as a delightful bonus.) Like Robertson's fine lyric poems. Camera Obscura is full of memorable and quotable moments: "After returned to their bodies."

It is an unqualified delight and makes, again, a strong case for the longer verse

Shouting out boldly from the back of the bus

Kate Clanchy prefers the raucous to the navel-gazing in a round-up of new collections

gives "to airy nothing /a local habitation and a name" - to an idea or an emotion, in other words, a tangible place

and an audible voice: a home. It is this sense of home that makes Rita Ann Higgins's poetry in Sunny Side Plucked (Bloodaxe, £8.95) so refreshing. Higgins is blissfully sure. of her voice. Like one of those extraordinary Irish women who will sit beside you on the bus, settle her shopping in her lap, fix you with one wild blue eye, and strike up an astoundingly colourful and confidential conversation, Higgins's poems simply launch into stories -- "She wasn't always this bitter /I knew her when she sang in pubs"; autobiography "My father just passed me

/In his Fiat 127 /I was cycling my bicycle, hideous"; or fantasies - "I always /Have my hair done /So I can look good /In the bath /In case /Kim

The imagination of the poet, Basinger /Calls round" - with the has come down to me of hers planet /My beloved daugh- Knight's new collection riences, about the dissolving of observe with a cool, sharp, according to Shakespeare, complete confidence that we Asswing machine, a wedding band ter"; and in the process loses Dream City Cinema (Blood- the self. Thus, Francis's open- journalistic eye and taut turn know her relatives, history, hometown, her whole, off-kilter frame of reference. Which, Across my face in one of our wars

> dently realised, we soon do. Higgins' voices are so distinctive and real that a whole world of semi-rural Irish poverty rises around the reader with the jolting acuity of an excellent documentary. Being drawn into Higgins's home is an hilarious, absorbing and thoroughly disturbing experience, and as such constitutes a political statement.

Paula Meehan explicitly takes on the idea of home in Mysteries of the Home (Bloodaxe, £7.95). Her vision is equally Irish but far more literary, crafted and careful than Higgins's. In "The Pattern", for example, she constructs the world of her early figure of her mother from precise details neatly rhymed:

because her world is so confi-Meehan's exact eye and mastery of evocative detail is equally effective when turned About His Business In The Barn"), or on the detritus of the past ("Two Buck Tim from

Something, however, something crammed with moons. talismans, spells, archaisms and exclamation marks takes over her delicate language when she strays from this personal territory into the darker and vaguer area of myth. The individual, precisely realised mother of "The Pattern" becomes, in "The Ghost of My Mother Comforts Me," an abstract force promising: "Because /I am your mother childhood and the dominant I will protect you /As I promised you in childhood

all her character, common sense and individual voice.

tually and sensually. They deliberately eschew, by reason on the present ("My Love of their extreme cleverness, anything so parochial as a local habitation. To read her new collection, The Wound-Dresser's Dream (Bloodaxe, £6.95), you will need a working knowledge of Keats, Ruskin, Primo Levi, The Green Children of Woolpit, and Joseph Knecht; and be prepared to toss around their names and probable dreams like post-modern juggling balls. It's actually quite fun in Stainer's world, so full of crys-

cosy, though.
There is little point in look-You will walk freely on the ing for comfort in Stephen

Pauline Stainer's poems are extremely airy, both intellec-

tals, ice, and endlessly deferred meaning: weirdly light and fantastical, like lying in a greenhouse. It's not ever

axe, £6.95). Life, home and meaning just keep rushing past Knight. In between, people endlessly, poignantly miss things - their mothers, their grandmothers' death, their wife's surprise party - and are nibbled inexorably to dust by some superbly evoked bugs. Even the mermaid, that ageold representative of femininity or mystery, is locked in Knight's competition-winning poem, "In A Tank", and may only be seen through a glass, darkly. It makes for grim, if

compelling, reading. I'd advise Knight to move to the country, where poets have so often found meaning in daffodils and so forth - but Matthew Francis's first collection Blizzard (Faber, £6.95) seems to indicate that things are no better there. Like Knight, he writes about not finding home, about not being able to give a name to his expe-

ing poem "Bee Storm in West Middlesex" is an exercise in high irony, its precise title a joke: the poem is about not writing about bees. The poet is alienated from himself ("He sat in high office") and from the poem ("It was a poem about bees") and bees, in any case, defy being written about. The resulting poem is evoca-tive, open-ended, deeply lonely - a very fair introduction to a book which culminates in a are not concerned with creatlong poem about an apocalyptic blizzard. My suspicion that only

young men can maintain this level of gloom and alienation for an entire book is confirmed by Tobias Hill's new collection City of Clocks (OUP, £6.99). As Hill reminds us in his award-winning title poem, we are doomed to be separate. Even if "we hold hands /Our pulses chat against one another, like teeth: gaug-

ing the distance we are apart." Alienation is esse. All to Hill's persona, allowing him to juxtapositions of modern Japan, where Mister Fatboy holds court in Hiroshima. then the daily grotesqueries of London life. Through all this, we gain curiously little sense of a person, or a voice. Hill remains, as he says, "stopped in mid-step /Watching where the action is"

That couplet would do for Francis and Knight too: they ing "a local habitation and a name" but with recreating the experience of nothingness. For all of them it is an authentically realised and no doubt profoundly felt position: but for myself. I prefer Rita Ann Higgins' voice, however crazed and uncrafted, shouting out boldly from the back

Kate Clanchy's Slanern has just won the Forward Prize for Best First Collection

Poetic first-aid for a dislocated world

Ruth Padel applauds a classic anthology for the Nineties

Emergency Kit: Poems for Strange Times edited by Jo Shapcott and Matthew Sweeney, Faber, £9.99

with a unique premise. Remember a Kit Kat advertisement a while ago? You're behind prison-bars of Kit Kat, two snapped off by someone "making a break". That's all you see. Its strategy - a story semi-disclosed by visual detail, wit based on punning – is this book's dynamic. The editors, cutting-edge poets in this area themselves, have chosen 222 English poems by 157 wildly various poets from all over the world, plus a data-base of Irish and British poets who began publishing in the late

Eighties and Nineties. The editors' principle is generosity (not always paramount in poetry circles) towards work superficially very different from their own - which, unforgivably, they leave out. They focus on a "territory of strangeness". Td call it a dynamic of surprise, running through the work like

Emergency Kit is an importion of their work. Seriously play-tant, original anthology ful, but not clever for the sake of it, these poems take what Frost called "a fresh look and fresh listen." They won't touch rhetoric. Like the Kit Kat ad, they go for the unspelt-out, for irony, risk, humour, and diamond clarity. Revelation through concrete detail, no seductive petals of abstraction.

Many use film-technique, tracking cutting frame-shift, or assume an in-your-face intimacy with readers. "Bear with me," mumurs Michael Donaghy. "You don't under-stand a word I'm saying do you"? asks Carol Ann Duffy.

Such territory is where these poems see authenticity today. They suspect you do too. Shopping, driving, reading (or writing) newspapers, watching TV, you take for granted that imaginative bounce which is the essence of these poems.

dark wire. Some poets mine it looked to the Fifties, espe- undermined metaphor in direct, others tap into it rarely, cially the US galaxy. Sexton, but its presence salts the rest Plath, Frost, Hecht, Lowell,

turns on his "surrealism of the everyday". The cover design is "by Franz Kafka" (someone had fun at Faber): his drawing of a hangman-figure reeling before an easel, partially occupying the empty canvas.

The touchstone is Charles Simic, American poet from ex-Yugoslavia: master of the dark, spare and wry, with tragedy a heartbeat away. Simic has the epigraph, and the most poems. Also crucial is Eilean ni Chuilleanain ("I want to lie awake, listening to cream crawling to the top of the jug"). Adepts of surprise, both use parable to destabilise metaphor. "Crawling cream"? Imagery, or what?

Traditionally, metaphor sautés itself out of the world, while parable has a different go at reality. But the Internet has decommissioned Eng Lit For precursors, the editors distinctions and magic realism prose. When reality is virtual. image (as you discussed it at out like fish on a screen-saver. disorienting world.

Berryman, Roethke, Ginsberg, Bishop, But the master-presence is Kafka. Everything Emergency Kit.

As U.A. Fanthorpe confides, "Surviving is keeping your eyes open". When everything you see disorientates (the condition of surrealism), all you can do is articulate the strangeness. The title poem invokes surreal survival "among a laughing tribe", via a laughter-box "whose button I press /to outlaugh them." These poems are ways of seeing when seeing changes, something to clutch as we free-fall from "This strange century/With its slaughter of the innocents /Its flight to the

A key poem is Edwin Morgan's "Video Box". Someone does a jigsaw representing the sea (reality's most shifting physical thing) on TV: our talismanic artefact, that illusionthat-seems-truth. When he's finished, the ocean turns real

There are no separate sections. Subjects swim in and Food, death. Animals, childhood. Sex, moonlanding. Anything that makes life worth thinking, as seen on TV. The poets' poems are separated, snuggling up to other people's so you see new linkings. Frost before Muldoon shows Muldoon's debt to Frost, but also something in Frost you hadn't twigged before. Juxtapositions are mischievous or tragic: Redgrove's "Visible Baby" ("heart like two squirrels, one scariet, one purple") followed by Meehan's "Child Burial".

Bunting has the last word: Who says it's poetry anyhow? My ten year old Can do it and rhyme...

Nasty little words, nasty long words, It's unhealthy. I want to wash when I meet a poet.

Go and find work Which is exactly what poets imagine unbewildered, economically-viable writers think a moment. But only on screen. of them. Emergency Kit offers articulations of strangeness to the bewildered, to help with a



The snow performs its secret ministry as two chilly Shinto priests, bearing flimsy paper parasols, wade across the inner courtyard of the Meiji Temple in Tokyo in 1952. Werner Bischof's magical picture is taken from 'So Many Worlds' by Dieter Bachmann and Daniel Schwartz (Thames & Hudson £40.00), a photographic record of the last half of the twentieth century. Harrowing pictures of children watching an air raid in London 1940, and a view over the ruins of Dresden in 1945 stand shoulder to shoulder with lighter subjects: two health ministry officials eyeing up the pris in Rio and a marvellous shot of James Joyce leaving a bookshop Paris, 1938.

Patchwork tales from the New World

E. Annie Proulx's characters perform like figures in a set-dance. **Clare Boylan** is intrigued but not drawn in

Accordion Crimes by E. Annie Proulx, Fourth Estate, £14.99

lux based on the survival of the unfittest. In her new novel E. Annie Proulx has made a savage comic poetry out of that bastard tongue, following the fortunes of the unfittest, from their arrival to their endurance or otherwise in the New World. Foulmouthed, bawdy and heroic, her immigrants don't so much survive as get mashed into the

The characters are linked by a little green accordion, made immigrants first as minia-The characters are linked by by a poor Sicilian farmer. He turised masses and then as Merica, "fresh and unused...of vano was repulsed by the moil money hanging in the future on the wharf. It was as though like pears hidden in high leaves." Instead he arrives in a New Orleans which Proulx paints as a fly-crawling, mos-quito-ridden vision of hell: "A red moon crawled out of the east...a fetid stink of cesspools and burning sugar." Shunned, abused, conned and finally murdered by a racist mob, his instrument finds its way into the hands of a succession of immigrants for whom music is their only eloquence.

This is not so much a novel quilt, showing the American continent as the remnants of older, more ordered civilizations. From a distance it looks. as American novelist John

uage was in a state of that the patchwork society is made up from jewel-bright scraps salvaged from closeknit and highly individualistic ethnic groups and shows that the butchered language and low level culture come from a need to adapt too quickly. Reviled by racists, the immigrants mask their identity and are in turn shunned by their own children who come to detest their alienating origins.

The novelist turns herself memorable individuals. "Silsome great spatula had scraped through Italy and deposited this crust of humans on the edge of the oily harbour." Magnified, the various moils reveal a splendid range of eccentrics, from Mrs Malefoot, who kept "a bitterly clean house", to old Gerti Beutle who tried to revive her German husband's lust by presenting her bare rump across a potato barrel while singing The Best Things in Life are Free", to the Frenchman who as an ingenious patchwork got into trouble for calling a man "un bougre du chien" and

Relationships are contingent. O'Hara described it, "ecoun-try that has leaped fith bar-tal and often violent. Strange and birth and death accidenand wonderful fates befall

hitting him with a hen.

yril Connolly once said touching civilization." Proulx Proulx's characters. One man that the American lan-makes you look closely to see cuts off his own head with an electric saw. A bride dies by inhaling a piece of shrimp at her wedding. She mixes fact with fiction, insinuating that half of history, is composed of legend and she teases the reader by sending up her own tall tales. Wasn't it Rawley Sharp, she asks, who fell into the hot spring at Yellowstone Park, "and despite eyes par-boiled blind and the knowledge of impending death, clambered out - leaving the skin of his hands-like red gloves on the stony ledge?" After which she adds, "You

> Magic realism is stirred up with stranger-than-fiction facts. There is Mrs Blush Leleur, the French traiteuse who, as a child, saw her father try to set fire to her mother. "The child directed a savage thought at her father, that he become small and weak. That night her father began to shrink. The process was agonizingly slow, but in ten years he was the height of a child, withered and tiny, his arms like hollow stalks, and when he finally died be was no larger than a loaf of bread." In part a museum of Americana, the novel delights in possibly real-life characters like Howard Poplin, who toured America There are few love stories with his Atomic Power Trailer and fewer happy endings. Church of Jesus, and later with his Atomic Power Trailer made his fortune designing a camper vehicle called The Con-

Proulx writes a rollercoaster prose that is dense and chewy as a Christmas cake, alternating images of an earthly heaven with apocalyptic horross and glimpses of a you get the feeling that her astonishing energy comes from Hawbakers Red Fox Urine. and Thanks a Million tonic, or at least from her delight in their labels.

This novel confirms Proulx as one of the great American writers - an American Dickens, lyrical, ironic, compassionate and courageous. So why did I get an urge to stop reading half way through? For all its brilliance the novel fails in its structure and becomes a series of aggravating cul-desacs. Proulx creates unforgettable characters and then barks "change your partners," like a set-dance compère. I still want to know what happened to poor little 12-year-old Silvano, orphaned son of the immigrant accordion maker, last seen as a stowaway in a stinking New Orleans fishing boat burning with hatred for all Sicilians and begging the skipper: "My name are Bob

Joe. I work for you please." Page by page this book is a stunner but it lacks a centre and makes you hanker after poor. lugubrious, gentle Quoyle jr The Shipping News, whose misfortunes were pursued at sufficient length for him to ponder. queror, changing his name to that sometimes love Happy Jack. occurs without pain or misery."

Manning the barries

Geoff Dyer says yo to a new writer from the Dominican Republic

Drown by Junot Diaz, Faber, £7.99

The epigraph, from Gustavo Perez Firmat, provides a to translated Spanish, flecked with and transformed by Hisblueprint of the foundations on panic expresiones. which these resourceful, occasionally shaky fictional struc- stories are narrated by the tures are built: "The fact that I am writing to you in English already falsifies what I wanted to tell you. My subject; how to them in a limbo of relief - no explain to you that I don't belong to English though I belong to nowhere else."

Junot Diaz was born in the Dominican Republic and then moved to the States. His first book of loosely linked stories is about boys growing up in the barries of Santo Domingo, and men struggling to make ends meet in New Jersey. On arrival in America one of Diaz's characters is timpressed with the transplanted Latinas, who had been transformed by good diets and beauty products unimagined back home": likewise, few readers will be unimpressed by Diaz's version

A good proportion of the younger of two brothers whose father eventually emigrates to America, leaving more beatings - loss and thwarted expectations. By adolescence. los boys - as Faber considered entitling the English edition before going with the American, Drowned - are fending for themselves. stealing and dealing: "an ounce of weed for the big guy with the warts, some H for his coked-up girl, the one with the bloody left eve. Everybody's buying for the holiday weekend. Each time I put a bug in a hand I say, Pow, right

there, my man." A character in the story "Boyfriend" is derided for his cheap "Rico Suave routine" and while instantly alluring. of transplanted - as opposed this kind of linguistic riff ener-

getic Barrio Hip - is less testing, less exacting, than passages patiently tracing the gestures which define the son's awkward, tender relations with his abandoned mother: "I pull out the plug of bills from my pockets. She takes it from me, her fingers soothing the creases. A man who treats his plata like this doesn't deserve to spend it. she says." Describing his friends, on another occasion, as looking "the colour of day-old piss" is actually piss-poor writing: "piss" on its own would be pretty unstartling, "day-old" makes it as stale as the cooling

These are quibbles, really, for much of the language and many of the observations - "fake plants relaxed in each room" are fresh and unforced. Especially in the last, longest and hest story, "Negocios".

zephyrs of arcadia.

Hated, loved and feared by his son, appealed to as a standard of lapsed morality, the absent father gets this story to

himself. By ending the book like this Díaz makes good another absence. The earlier pieces deployed themselves obliquely, seemed always to be approaching some definitive irresolution. Whereas in this story, which focuses unflinchingly on the figure who was not around when he was needed and who, in "Fiesta 1980", did not like his son to look him "in the eye" while he was giving him a whupping - we move, finally, into the substantiality of thoroughly achieved narrative. This is it. the defining tale, of migration. struggle, exploitation and par-tial assimilation which, as it were, accounts for all the others. The story of the father's difficult transition to a larger, more challenging world is also. appropriately, a demonstration of how the writerly skill and promise displayed earlier in the book are already giving way to the sustained ambitions of the mature novelist-to-be.

Soap opera with cd attached

E. Jane Dickson deplores a multi-media marketing event

The Law of Love by Laura Esquivel, Chatto, £15.99

Book Agreement is as quaint and remote as the Corn Laws. all books will be like The Law of Love. The Latin American writer Laura Esquivel hit paydirt in 1990 with Like Water For Chocolate, (now a major feature film) and is taking no chances with this latest venture. The Law of Love is not so much a novel as a multi-media marketing event. The heartsinking combination of science fiction and magic realism is further enlivened with great wedges of cod philosophy and emetic sex. And for that untapped sector of the reading public who find traditional novels rebarbatively bookish. there are pictures to look at and music to listen to. (A CD of the book's "soundtrack" is tucked into the dustjacket.)

The theme of the novel is the perfection or the human soul through reincarnation. Our plucky heroine Azucena is an astroanalyst, a term which

In the future, when the Net is left to the luckless blurb an especially bewildering juncwriter to explain as "a sort of ture." "She had received too highly evolved psychotherapist who ministers to the karmically challenged using music to reacquaint her patients with their past lives." Azucena is so highly evolved that she has no need of character definition, motive or believable speech patterns.

Indeed the entire novel has the ring of a Latin American soap opera dubbed into English in a Hong Kong basement. "Come on," rails Azucena at a less evolved minion, "You must think I'm some sort of

idiot, right?"
To be fair, Azucena has had a tough old time of it, pursuing her "twin soul" Rodrigo from 23rd century Mexico City to the ancient empire of Montezuma. Her picaresque passage through time and space is so dizzyingly complicated that Esquivel thoughtfully provides regular updates. "She couldn't

many blows in too short a time. She had lost her twin soul, had been on the verge of being murdered [by a power crazed politician posing as the reincarnated Mother Teresa, had been forced to undergo a soul transplant, had discovered the murder of a close friend, had witnessed her beloved body occupied by an assassin, and finally, had found Rodrigo in a place that was for all practical purposes out of reach."

What is a girl to do? Fortunately, Azucena's Guardian Angel, Anacreonte is on hand with gobbets of New Age wisdom. "Hatred" he points out, "is forever hunting down a refuge, poking its nose where it shouldn't, taking over sites reserved for others, invariably forcing out love. And Nature, which unlike the Gods, insists upon order, to the point of neurosis, you might say, feels take any more," we are told, at the need to got into the act."

And so it goes on, page after page of incontinent and impenetrable claptrap. You are almost grateful for the storyboard cartoons by "Spain's premier graphic artist, 'Migualanxo Prado'" and the musical interludes (mushy recordings of Pucciniand traditional dantones). Ye. can't help feeling, however, that Chatto and Windus have spoilt the ship for a hap'orth of tar. Why not follow through with a scratch 'n sniff panel (Esquivel has a particularly joyless obsession with farts) or maybe a vacuum wrapped enchilada and ready mixed margarita? But this is a counsel of perfection. Not so long ago, writers would put themselves and their readers through the slog of conjuring sensory perception from the printed page. With this easyto-use, book-style entertainment package, Esquivel has put an end to brain-engagement misery for ever.

Paperbacks _____ By Christopher Hirst and Emma Hagestadt

The Irish Male at Home and Ahroad by Joseph O'Connor (Minerva, £6,99) According to Joseph O'Connor Irish males are "wet-arsed", noncommunicative, drunken "eejits". Nothing new here, and not much new to be found in this collection of iournalism swiped from O'Connor's regular column in Ireland's Sunday Tribune along with articles from the pages of Cosmo and Elle. Thoughts on flavoured condoms ("a reusable alternative to chewing gum"), a trip to Nice (not nice"), and the post-coital delights of curry chips are served up alongside more serious reflections on "New

Man" and the state of Lord

Archer's bathrooms - nice fittings, no bog rolls.

Lifting the Taboo, Women. Death and Dying by Sally Cline (Abacus, £7,99) "There is no assurance that you will live to read the whole of this book." Not a comforting opening thought, and not a comforting book. Sally Cline's exploration of the sexual politics of death throws up some interesting ideas about women's relationship with the Grim Reaper, More likely to meet the end with a sense of commitments unfulfilled. women worry as much

about being buried alive, as

dinner after they've gone.

who will cook their hubbie's

Useful advice on dying at home, and insights from female undertakers you'll wish you'd rather not read.

G, a Novel by John Berger (Bloomsbury, £6.99) Winner of the 1972 Booker Prize, John Berger's oncetrendy novel is a lot more entertaining than some of his more recent ones. Set against an operatic background of risorgimento Italy and country-house England, it tells the story of G, the illegitimate son of a candied-fruit merchant and his early introduction to the sins of the flesh. Seemingly profound pronouncements on sex, love and death nestle around Berger's sensuous set pieces like the

wrappers around a Baci chocolate. Turn of the century melodrama for Seventies hipsters.

Morality Play by Barry Unsworth (Penguin, £5.99) Set in the depths of plagueridden Yorkshire, Unsworth's medieval whodunit tells the story of Nicholas Barber, a lustful young cleric who abandons his calling to join a group of travelling players and once more smell the "budding hawthorn". A decision he never regrets, especially after he and the players help solve a murder and save a woman's life. With its cast of slatternly wenchs and snooping monks, this is about as entertaining as your average Father Cadwael mystery.

Primary Colors by Anonymous (Vintage, £6,99) It doesn't take long to realise why this foulmouthed, but probably -

word-perfect, fictional take on the Clintons and their entourage rocketed to the top of the bestsellers. On page 16, we are given a character analysis of the central figure: "Jack Stanton could be a great called back to rule. man, if he wasn't such a faithless, thoughtless, disorganised, undisciplined shit." And that's his wife talking. An acid comedy of modern political manners, which will still-be read when the Clinton administration

is a distant memory. The Habsburgs by Andrew Wheatcroft (Penguin, £8.99) A thrilling panoramic history - though rather oldfashioned in being more concerned with personality and "the mystical power of lineage" than the cold facts of economy. Wheatcroft unspools his vivid diorama of Europe's greatest dynasty from early luminaries such as Frederick the Fat (he died from a surfeit of

melons) through the lonely, belligerent Philip II of Spain and ill-fated Maximilian of Mexico, to the last remnants of the line, who lead "respectable, boring lives", hoping to be

The Periodic Kingdom by Peter Atkins (Phoenix, £5.99) This surprisingly readable account of the building blocks of the universe utilises the metaphor of a travel guide. With the help of Atkins' lively sales patter, the "glittering, lustrous" desert of metals becomes a tempting destination. The names are particularly interesting: Atkins notes that "bromine" and "areon" derive from Greek words for "stench" and "lazy". He points out that helium, which makes up 25 per cent of the universe, was only found in 1868 and then on the sun. Also, it's not

profitable to go prospecting

for francium - only 17 atoms of it exist on earth.

The Race Gallery by Marek

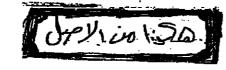
Kohn (Vintage, £7.99) Boasting a collection of 25,000 skeletons, a Race Gallery actually exists in Vienna's Natural History Museum. Kohn uses this poignant display of human differences as a starting point for an exploration of our muddled thinking on the peculiarly sensitive issue of race. While he effectively scuppers the views of ... modern hereditarians - in particular, The Bell Curve for their mangling of recent genetic findings, he insists that race can no longer remain a no-go area for mainstream science. In reaching this radical conclusion, he has produced a vital work of scientific commentary.

On Being Jewish by Julia Neuberger (Mandarin, £6.99) This book's solipsist

tone is set on the first page. when the author gives her reason for writing it: "There is no book...by me on the subject." So, while we learn much about Judaism, we're Neuberger. Often this combination is fascinating, as when a Boston pharmicist recognises the name on her credit card because her grandmother was active among Jewish refugees in England. But for a greater insight into the astonishing richness of Britain's Jewish community, readers should seek out

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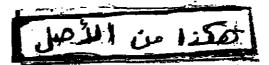
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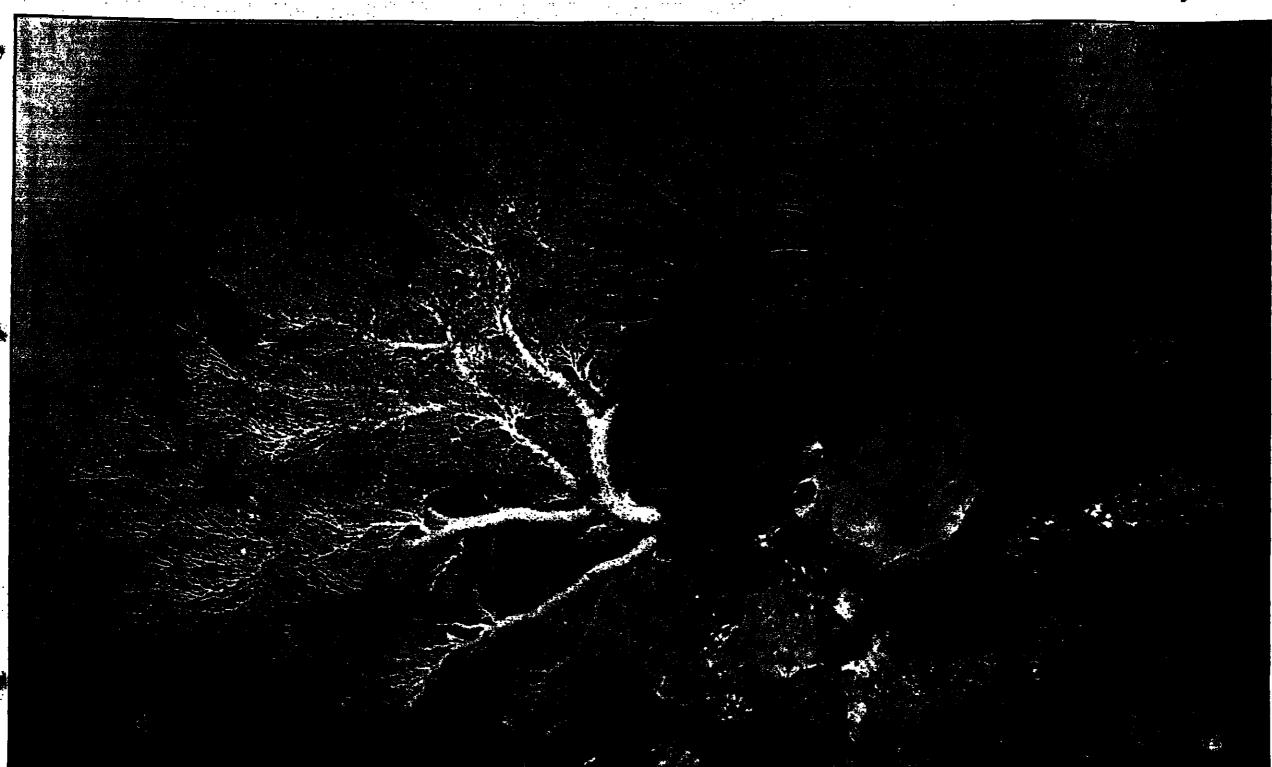
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Harriet O'Brien dives through turbulence into the calm of Indonesia's coral reefs

swam round a bend of the great wall of coral and suddenly collided with a powerful whoosh of current. Under such circumstances than the distance from London to Moscow and there's little you can do but go with the flow. contains about a sixth of the world's coral reefs. And observe how the locals are coping. The bigger fish had been able to fight their way through to stiller, lower depths but the small 10 years since the first commercial dive operations fry, forced to abandon their snacking ground, were swept along with us, little dorsal fins quivering in the sea gale. It was gratifying to feel that we were all in this together. A few minutes later the tumbled gang - assorted angelfish, fusiliers, mini wrasses and scuba divers - had managed to twist free of the water force, no

ied activities: the fish got down to the serious slouching starfish. Manado, a bustling little start your descent you acquire business of nibbling on passing plankton and coastal town on the extreme edge of the upper a weightlessness in defiance of on gliding through the now screne seascape, hedonists on an aquatic sightseeing tour. There's no sense of "been there, done that" with scuba diving. It's always an adventure. You. get a buzz from the fact that this is a potentially hazardous sport, from the sense of magic as you sink into a gloriously alien world of sublimely coloured plants and fish - and from the chal-

people of appealingly different customs and cultures. This vast archipelago stretches further

There are, bowever, some disadvantages to this - facilities tend to be basic and safety standards alarmingly relaxed. One of the best and safest places for coral gazing is off the top of Sulawesi, north-east of Java. In terms of landmass, the island is the size of England and Scotland, although its bizarre shape makes it seem In calmer quarters, we all resumed our var- bigger: on the map, Sulawesi looks a bit like a miracle of physics that once you browsing through soft coral, the divers carried arm, is just a short boat trip away from an area of spectacular sea scenery. As yet, only a few dive companies operate here. The outfit I signed up with promised "fully trained guides," as you clumsily bubble into the not just somebody who knows how to blow bub-

les", a reassurance with worrying undertones. the reef fish you pass look. But, sudden currents aside, it turned out that remarkably unstartled. Unlike bles", a reassurance with worrying undertones. there wasn't much cause for anxiety as the animals on land, many of the group of novice Indonesian divers I joined was small underwater species do lenge of being caught in a strong current.

The adventure is perhaps all the greater in Indonesia, where the trail for coral and fish also

The adventure is perhaps all the greater in ing the crystal-clear waters around the volcanic ing the crystal-clear waters around the volcanic in the suspended in the crystal-clear waters around the volcanic in the crystal-clea

t was like being in the rinse cycle of a wash- leads you to remote regions - volcanic land- islet of Bunaken. Here, a stunning wall of coral ing machine. Forty feet under water, we scapes of lush beauty, deserted tropical islands, drops sheer down, looking as if it falls into an

infinity of blue. Quite apart from such panoramic drama, the attraction of going to the wall lies in the enormously rich variety of marine life it supports: beds of soft sea anemones, great barrel organs of sponges, battalions of barracuda, horizon-tal trumpet fish, fleets of black triggerfish, and more. If you're lucky you might catch sight of sinister-looking moray eels, tiny seahorses and inflated pufferfish hoping they've swelled them-selves so big as to be inedible.

Kitted up with weight belt and scuba tank you feel as ungainly as an overfed elephant as you prepare to plunge into the water to meet these creatures. It seems a minor

these encumbrances.

Agility and grace are rather more difficult to achieve. Yet wateryworld, the schools of litconfetti - presumably they have the second sense to know that you're a cumbersome oddity rather than a predator.

This is rarely the case with larger sea life. A shy turtle, scarpering into the salty distance, was the first creature I saw as I plutometed into the Bunaken underworld (judging by the amount of tortoiseshell you can still find for sale in Indonesia, perhaps it had good reason to be nervous). At a depth of about 70ft, a massive couple of spotted eagle stingray lolloped swiftly away from us, looking rather like marine UFOs. A little later we peered down on a prowling reef shark which sped out of sight once it

became aware of our presence. We were lucky. Continued on page 10



Sulawesi with a scuba tank

How to get there: Although Manado has an international airport, there are no direct flights from the UK. The most convenient route is via Jakarta or Bali. Harriet O'Brien flew to Jakarta with Qantas; the return trip cost £586 through Quest Worldwide (0181-547 3322). The Indonesian airline Garuda International (0171-486 3011) is currently offering an airpass around the archipelago for £243. This lasts 60 days and allows you a maximum number of seven flights. British visitors to Indonesia do not require visas.

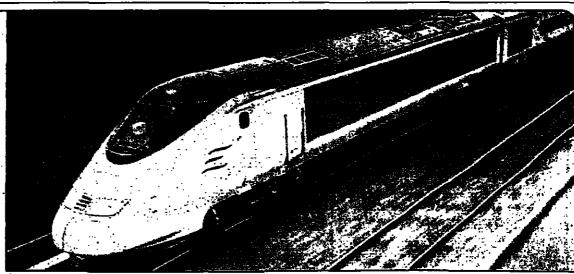
When to go: Diving conditions are best in Sulawesi between April and October. The rainy season generally starts in November, when visibility becomes poor and access to the reefs around Bunaken difficult.

Whom to trust: Harriet O'Brien paid £40 for two dives per day organised by the Barracuda Diving Resort at Molas, Manado (tel 00 62 43154288, although communication is better by fax on 00 62 43164848). The price includes boat trips, lunch, hire of weight belt and professional guidance. Diving in Indonesia is in its infancy and not all operators offer qualified instruction or adequate equipment for hire. If possible take your own wet suit and regulator.

Where to stay: The Barracuda Diving Resort has comfortable accommodation: an all-in package for room (without air conditioning) and two dives per day costs from £50. Other hotels in Manado include the Hotel New Queen (00 62 431 65979) which charges from £10 a night.

What to read: Underwater Indonesia is published by Periplus,





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travel

Continued from page 9

A shark sighting is generally something to get excited about: you can't help but be impressed by the sheer power and size of these big fish. And unless you go shark baiting, or appear to be a creature in distress (as you do swimming on the surface of the water), you are, apparently, unlikely to become lunch for these primitive

bundles of aggression.
"I think it's all those bubbles. Sharks can't stand them" one of my fellow divers later commented. He and his wife were cheerful yuppies from the capital, Jakarta, and were diving on honeymoon. "Not what Indonesians normally do, but we've both become addicted." And they wanted photographs of the event. We duly obliged with an underwater camera, taking pic-tures of them, several group shots, and a few photographs of passing fish for good measure. Posing at a depth of 50ft is not something they cover at dive school, so we acquired new skills in lining up, keeping still and attempting to smile with a regulator-filled mouth.

Dipping into reference books to identify the

fish I'd seen, I thought that the coral reef was, inadvertently, a pretty kinky place for a honey-moon. The sex life of many of the fish is bizarre. The valiant little clown fish which live in the tentacles of sea anemones are a case in point.

These tiny orange-and-white fellows will defined their patch vigorously, aggressively darting out at intruders, including passing divers. They mature as males but a few will then become female and pair off with a dominant male. The couple take up residence in an anemone along with a group of smaller, younger males. Should the female die, her partner will do a swift sex change and take one of the young males as her mate.

Many wrasses, groupers and parrotfish have similar hermaphroditic tendencies - not that you see such gender gymnastics taking place in front of your eyes, but the knowledge of it adds to the wonder of the underwater world.

Life on dry land might seem a bit dull by comparison, but northern Sulawesi compensates with a generous sprinkling of artive volcanoes (Mt Soputan last crupted in 1989), a few



sulphurous lakes and a crowd of good-time people who seem to spend every available opportunity singing and playing guitars. The Mina-hasa are renowned for their exuberance by other Indonesians - and also for their taste in food: in the sprawling market at Manado they

do a brisk trade in rat, bat and dog meat.

And business, generally, is good. This is, by
Indonesian standards, a rich area, supported by coconut, nutmeg and clove crops. Currently, there's some concern about the bottoming out of clove prices. "But now we've got a new tourist industry," my dive guide enthused. Indeed, investors are moving in: Novotel, for one, has seen fit to sink money into the area with a large hotel under construction in Manado.

It's difficult not to share the prevailing optimism of the locals and to hope that tourism will have huge benefits. Visitors come here principally to see the coral and its attendant wildlife, which means that the reefs must be preserved. And to this end the fragile underwater world around Bunaken island has already become protected as a national marine reserve.

Up to the NEC in deep water

This weekend, Dive 96, Europe's biggest show for scuba diving, takes place at the NEC in Birmingham. As well as finding out about opportunities to visit coral reefs from Indonesia to Israel, Egypt to Antigua; you can also learn about underwater photography and conservation work currently under progress. There will also be an opportunity to scare yourself with the prospect of free diving - diving without the use of scuba equipment.
Beginners can try out the sport by

kitting up and plunging into the shallows at the nearby Metropole Hotel where they'll receive free advice from professional instructors. Entrance: £7: (children under 14, £1.50). For more details call 0181-977 9878.

I hose who can, teach abroad

Speak English, and you can talk your way around the world. By Susan Griffith

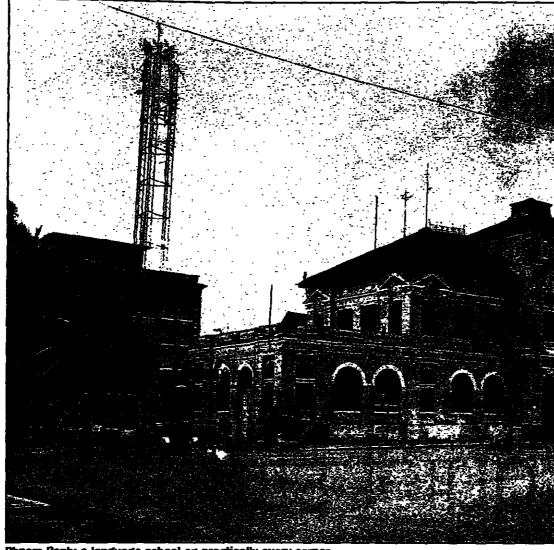
The fact that you are reading this suggests you possess a skill that could easily find you work abroad: English as a mother tongue. Thousands of students have decided is better to give than to receive (instruction). So instead of heading back to college this term, they are going abroad to teach English instead. Every morning the streets of Seville, Santiago and Seoul are thronged with people rushing to their English lessons. The demand for instruction or just conversation with people who speak English as their mother tongue is enormous.

A great many young Britons are setting off about now to capitalise on this market. The cautious and well organised ones do so under the wing of one of the specialist organisations that arrange for students in their gap year to teach English in Nepal, China, Bulgaria, Mexico or one of a score of other countries. Applications for these placements normally have to be made a year in advance, so now is a good time to think about the next academic year.

If you want to start wandering next work rather than next year, arranging a job in advance is still possible. A few agencies accept applications on a rolling basis. For example, an agency called Teaching Abroadican send people at very short redice to Russia, Ukraine, Lithuania, India and (from February) Ghana, to teach English while living with a family. The standard arrangement is for the mediating organisation to charge a fee (say £600-£750) for arranging a job and accommodation and providing local back-up. Travel expenses are extra.

Mostly (but not always) you need some sort of qualification for teaching English as a foreign language -TEFL in the jargon. Chains of language schools abroad sometimes interview teachers in Britain, and most of them expect some kind of TEFL profile. There are excepand Trinity College London after an tions: for example the Nova Group, intensive one-month course), many a major Japanese chain of language schools, has a London office that English teachers. recruits teachers with a university degree year-round.

In less developed countries, schools come and go, and tend to class interesting and to remain choose their teachers from the bottomiess pool of native English are two key qualities that employers speakers on the spot, who also come are looking for rather, than methodand go. Knocking on doors is the ological sophistication.



Phnom Penh: a language school on practically every corner

approved method. What many jobseekers find is that as private language schools around the world become more aware of recognised qualifications (principally the Cerare more suspicious of backpacker

However, those who can present an authoritative image often meet with success. An ability to make a patient in the face of slow progress

The norm is for a new arrival in town to increase the number of teaching hours very gradually. Getting three hours of work a day (early morning and early evening) is usually the easy part, As a freelancer, it is difficult to do more than subsist at first. Freelance teachers must be prepared for frequent holidays and last-minute cancellations to cut into earnings. It may be worth considering setting up as an independent tutor and offering private lessons at a rate that undercuts the institutes. It may be necessary to consider less familiar destinations. Here are my top six, with a few tips on how

to get a job:

Cambodia now has a booming commercial market supplying Eng-lish language training. Rent yourself a bike for the day and have a spin around Phnom Penh. There's a school on practically every corner, many of which want to hire native English speakers. Casual teachers earn about £4 an hour in a country where you can live comfortably on £6 a day. TEFL qualifications can double or treble this amount.

Every issue of Venezuela's English-language paper, the Caracas-Daily Journal, carries job ads for English teachers. Surprisingly, opportunities also exist on the popular resort island of Margarita. Korea absorbs huge numbers of foreign teachers at countless private language institutes (called hogwors) in the capital, Seoul, and Pusan, Korea's second city. Having some latter after your name makes the letters after your name makes the job hunt easier.

Bulgaria is one former Eastern bloc country which has not surrendered to the free market, so there are virtually no commercial lan-guage schools. However, the Ministry of Education is promoting an exchange programme through Teachers for Central & Eastern Europe, whereby graduates from the English-speaking world spend at least one term in an Englishmedium secondary school.

Turkey is a good choice of desti-nation for fledgling teachers. Not only are there a great many jobs, but these jobs are often part of a package that includes free accommoda-tion and a free return flight as an incentive (sometimes much needed) to complete a nine-month contract. Employers generally want to see a miversity degree and a TEFL cerafficate of some kind.

In Thailand, dozens of private language schools can be found around Siam Square in Bangkok, with a very high turnover of native-speaking English teachers. The basic hourly rate in Bangkok starts at 150 baht (just less then £4) which is roomewhat higher than in Chiang Mai and less-visited Thai cities.

Teaching Abroad, 46 Beech View, Angmering. West Sussex BNI6 4DE (01903 249888); Services for Open Learning, North Devon Professional Centre, Vicarage Street, Barnstaple, Devon EX32 7HB (01271 327319) – recruits graduates to teach in schools in Belarus, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia: Teachers for Central & Eastern Europe, 21 V 5 Rakovski Blvd, Dimitrovgrad 6400, Bulgaria (00 359 0391 24787) – appoints native English speakers to teach in English language secondary schools in Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia: Nova Group, Carrington House, 126/130 Regent Street, Lon-don WIR 5FE (0171-734 2727)

Susan Griffith is the author of Teaching English Abroad. The third edition will be published by Vacation-Work next month, price £9.99.



last resort Nauru

No bars, no visitors

When I arrived in Nauru, in the Pacific Ocean, the immigration officer automatically issued me with a transit visa. No one stays in Naura for long. Not surprising given that, at 21 square kilometres, Nauru is metre-for-metre the most maligned country on earth.

If you've heard of it, that's probably because the entire economy is based upon mining prehistoric bird droppings and selling the "crop" to Australia and New Zealand as fertiliser. Naurans have had to endure constant scatological references to their country in the press. An example: when the nation tried to show how cultured it is by bankrolling a West End musical based on the life of Leonardo da Vinci, one critic called it "slightly more entertaining than a pile of guano".

The result: the Naurans are pathologically media shy. You won't find "Visit Nauru" booths at travel shows, and there are no package holidays to its pristine beaches. There is one hotel (mostly for development workers in transit to other countries) and one motel (mostly empty). In tourism terms, it's not only virgin territory, it's pre-pubescent. Thanks to a superb free

education system, most Naurans speak both Nauran and English. Whether you can get them to talk to you is another matter. The Naurans themselves tend to be surprised at, and suspicious of, visitors. No one can quite believe that you are there on holiday. You must be out to make covert fun of them. Nauru is literally and figuratively insular. The

country has no street addresses, since everyone knows where everyone cise lives. It has but one road, which circumscribes the island. It has no bars. And news travels faster than the speed of sound.

There is no public transport, but start walking down the road and any passing cur will stop to pick you up. And people will let you tag along when they do the things that Naurans do for entertainment.

After a few days at the Car Nauru-Aiwo Motel, I was invited to stay at the house of Mrs Amram, the widow of he country's first reverend, Her son and his friends took me up into the interior and taught me the intricacies of hunting the local game bird with nothing but a butterfly net and a bird-call CD.

The next night, Mrs Amram's cheerful, charming daughter-in-law Wo-Wo took me fishing. We stood on the beach and fished with pieces of wire tied to Coke cans. In one riotous hour, we caught enough fish for dinner for

the whole family. Mrs Amram would take me to church where we would sing hymns in Nauran. If I could erase all the knowledge the world has about Nauru and put something else in its place, it would be that the Naurans can sing even better than digitally remastered bird-call CDs.

So, if you want package Polynesian holidays, go to Fiji. If you want to make friends with an entire country, go to Nauru. Tell 'em Cleo, the tourist of '96, sent you.

Cleo Paskal

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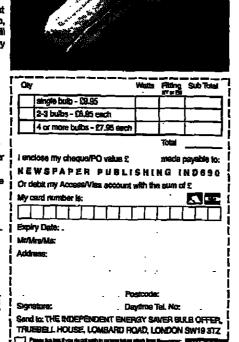
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something to declare

trouble spots Reports from areas popular with British travellers

France: the Interior Minister, Jean-Louis Debre, has vowed to lock up more separatists of the Corsican National Liberation Front (FLNC), which planted last Saturday's highly symbolic bomb in Bordeaux, causing damage but no casualties. Citing evidence that the militants were planning to step up violence in mainland France, M Debre deployed armed riot police to guard public buildings in Paris, Lyon, Marseille and Bordeaux - Reuter

Sri Lanka (above right): fighting between the security forces and the Tamil Tigers (LTTE) continues in the north and east of the country. Do not visit these areas. The south and centre of the island, including all the main tourist areas and the Cultural Triangle, remain largely unaffected. But there have been incidents in the Yala National Park - Foreign Office Travel



longer - Marine Guard,

Colombia: the Lost City [in

Colombia's Sierra Nevada]

is in a marijuana-growing

area that has experienced

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some guerrilla activity.

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- Papagaio, the free

The Pentagon.

Russia: drug-related offences are on the increase, and about one third of registered crimes were committed by people under the influence of alcohol, according to the latest crime figures published in Moscow. The overall trend in reported crime is down. however, with 4.5 per cent fewer incidents - Reuter

US: the state of Virginia has outlawed the carrying of pocket knives with a Advice Unit, 0171-238 4503. blade of two inches or

visitors' book East Coast Explorer (Larry

Lustig's budget bus service linking New York with Boston and Washington)

Amish tour - very informative. Great cruising music, too - Anon, Australia.

Most enjoyed the moussaka pizza at Mystic Pizza. Test it

- Wolfgang, Bavaria.

Nice change from the nor-

packers without cars to see America in more detail. Cheers, Larry - Sophic.

A great trip, allowing back-

I have decided to become a

that I can wear braces every

Larry was the first person in

the US that I felt I could

trust 100 per cent - Peter.

member of the Amish so

day - Mark, Australia.

mal boring bus ride - Doug. Bookings: 001 718 694 9667.

bargain of the week

If you are among those who predict that the General Election will be held next 1 May, and you wish to avoid it, you could leave the country on a cheap one-way ticket. For the first three weeks of May, Monarch Airlines (01582 398333) is selling seats from Luton to Malaga or Gibraltar for £72, including tax.

a likely story

The most comprehensive guide with the most up-to-date information" - South American Handbook 1997, on itself.

You can test this assertion, and meet the editor of the Handbook - and others in the new Footprints series - in London next Monday evening, 14 October, Stanford's bookshop at Campus Travel in Victoria is playing host to the editorial team from 6pm to 8.30pm. Tickets are free, but must be reserved in advance by calling 0171-730 1314.

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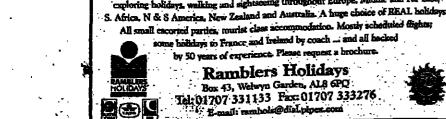
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A tour of hot chocolate

Loma and Zoe Downing indulge in Cadbury World

he saying goes that when there's rain in the air you can smell the chocolate wafting through the factory air vents on your approach to Cadbury World. So if you're heading for this chocolate emporium at Bournville, outside Birmingham, try to time your visit to coincide with a couple of black clouds.

Resist the temptation of hitting the Cadbury

Trail first, with its free samples and potted history.
Instead, take a tour along the Factory Trail which winds through imposing Victorian factory buildings. By the time you pass go for the Cadbury Trail you will have worked up an appetite for your first free sample.

The give-away goodies are generous – and there's no point in taking your diet with you, or your hang-ups about acre. You are expected to have too much of a good thing here.

The chocolate experience is not all edible. It's educational, too. The Cadbury Trail unwraps the story behind the history of chocolate and the start of Cadbury's. Meanwhile, the factory packaging plant gives you a taste of what is involved in the production of Cadbury's chocolate and the demonstration area allows you to watch handmade chocolate being decorated.

Frankly, it is disappointing not to see rows and rows of factory workers supervising the 66,000 creme eggs which Cadbury produces every hour, but the days when you could take all your relatives, head-lice and all, around the factory floor ended in 1970 when new health-and-safety legislation was introduced. You just have to make do with imag-ining the eggs flying out of the machine at 50mph.

The visitors

Lorna Downing, an office manager from Berkshire, took her 10-year-old daughter, Zoe, and young friend Tom to Cadbury World.

Zoe: I'm not a great chocolate fan so I didn't have any trouble stopping myself from eating it all the time. My friend Tom, who came with us, ate loads of it, though. By the time we were three quarters of the way around he looked quite green around the gills. It was nice, though, to be given such a hoard of free chocolate. It means I can either eat it gradually or share it with my friends.

I don't think this is the sort of place to come to if Lorna: I've always been a bit of a chocaholic - but The deal you're worried about your figure. But there's lots to see, and loads of information about chocolate. You get to try some of the original chocolate drink which they made in the rainforests. It had chilli in it and was pretty disgusting. Nothing like the chocolate we



Zoe Downing finds chocolate heaven

I enjoyed watching the handmade chocolate such as the Cadbury Milk Tray advert. being decorated. It looked really good fun. The Cadbury Fantasy Factory was good, too, especially for small children, and there's an amazing hall of mirrors where you are completely surrounded by changing images of chocolate.

I think it's a good place to take schoolchildren as it's so well laid out and interesting, and the history of chocolate is very well explained.

I'd never realised how fascinating a history it had. The Cadbury Trail takes you right from the beginnings of chocolate in the Central American rainforests, where the Maya Indians first harvested the cocoa beans, through to the mass production of

It gives a really good succinct history of the Cad-bury brothers, who were a Quaker family with a philanthropic approach to the commercial world. It goes without saying that the actual chocolate experience of Cadbury World was great. The

temptation of freshly tapped chocolate that is only 20 minutes old was too much. I ate it straight away.

Location: Cadbury World is at Bournville Birming-ham. junction 2 off the M42, junctions 2 and 4 off the M5, and junction 6 off the M6 (0121-451 4159). Price: adults, £5; children, £3.45; under 5s, free: chocolate bars and the creation of commercials senior citizens, £4.35 (Mon-Fri only); family tick

£14.50 (two adults and two children) or £17.50 (two adults and three children).

Opening times: 10am-5.30pm. Open daily throughout October, and at weekends and selected weekdays throughout November and December. Facilities: free parking picaic and play area: disabled access except in packaging plant; push-chair access except in production areas. Toilets positioned in reception area and half way around the Cadbury Trail. Resignating, "Quite pricey and limited selection," said Lorga. "We paid £6.60 for fish and chips. a meat pie and one child's drink."

Shop: Plenty of souvenirs plus a bargain corner. Note: The packaging plant cannot be guaranteed to be working at all times.

Nicola Swanborough

Are we nearly there? A weekly round-up of outings for children Sweets

Parents hoping to keep children away from chocolate are setting themselves an almost impossible task. They might as well enjoy their defeat by exploring the enemy strongholds and taking a tour round some of the sights where the goodies are manufactured.

Rowlands Confectionary, 17 Old High Street, Folkestone, Kent (01303-254723). Situated on the same old cobbled street between the harbour and town centre since the 1920s, the premises consist of a shop and also an area where you can watch work in process. Entrance free.

Shop open 9am-5pm daily - but no sweet-making on Wednesdays and Sundays. Pontefract Museum, Salter Row. Pontefract, W Yorks (0197-722740). That's Pontefract with a capital "P", as in the town of that name; but the museum includes a section on pontefract with a small "p", as in the sweet. The liquorice plant from which pontefract is made seems to have been brought back from the Middle East during the Crusades. It has been grown, and used for sweets, in the town for centuries. John Betjeman wrote a poem beginning, "In the licorice fields of Pontefract, My love and I did meet". Entrance to museum free. Open daily 10.30am-5pm, Sundays 2.30-5pm. Chocolate House, 1 Glenfield Park,

Philips Road, Blackburn, Lanes (01254-581019). There are demonstrations here by appointment - of the noble art of making chocolate products by hand. Chocolates, truffles, dinosaurs, bears, Santas, caramels and three types of fudge: it sounds like a modernised version of the fairy-tale Gingerbread House. All are created in a kitchen free from machinery apart from a couple of mixers. The whole visit lasts two hours, during which there is a raffle of the objets chocolats which you have seen being conjured up. Entrance to demonstrations: £3 (£3.50 in November), under-sixes free. No unaccompanied under-14s. The shop is open 9am-5pm.
Monday to Friday (and some Saturdays).

Dobsons Sweets. Northgate, Elland, W
Yorks (01422-372165). Groups of over 20

are shown the old-fashioned humbugs. pear-drops and toffees being created and can taste them while still warm. The firm, founded by the present owner's great-grandfather, turns out five tons of confectionary a week. Visitors by appointment only; a family might be able to tag along with a larger group.

Jonathan Sale

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تفكذا من المذم

Ten years of Independent travel

Here, there, everywhere: a decade of travellers' tales. Compiled by Omega Douglas



The depth of devotion to Cuba, the Caribbean's most dramatic island

Photograph: John Voos

"engage

Twenty-four hours in an aeroplane is a very, very long time - particularly if you're flying steerage in economy class. The journey becomes a series of unwatchable films followed by a succes-

sion of inedible meals. Frank Barrett, December 1986

At the quayside restaurant in Ostend last week, the proprietor dried her hands on her apron and frowned: "After Zeebrugge, the British don't want to come to Belgium - it is very sad". The capsizing of the Herald of Free Enterprise was not Belgium's fault, but its tourist indus-

try is suffering. Others blame the continuing repercussions of the Heysel stadium riot two years ago for the downturn in British visitors. An old man in a bar repeated rumours of English cars left in the streets of Brussels being attacked. 'That's absurd," said another customer.

"In Belgium we love the British." Jeremy Round, October 1987

The idea of Australia 💸 a package – Life in Manhattan is like mainlining on – holiday destination may seem pos- pure energy, and the British are getting itively eccentric. London to Syd- hooked as cheap flights shuttle ever ney is a flight of around 24 hours: if you more furiously across the Atlantic and take off from London at 6pm on Thurs- the exchange rate puts the cost of living day evening, you arrive at Sydney (11 within the budget of those without hours ahead of GMT) at around 6am expense accounts. The city is now the top on Saturday morning. Friday is no long-haul destination from the UK But more than a passing bluffer daylight beware; you may find yourself blasted The ruins of Bestut were among the glimpsed somewhere over the Middle out of the torpor of a sluggish winter yet most spectacular on our route. A luxury in need of a rest when you return Hilly Janes, March 1988

> Stepping out of the aircraft I was struck by the crisp mountain air and the bril-liant blue sky. On the tarmac stood a line of troop-carrying helicopters, their five rotor blades giving them the appearance of giant khaki grasshoppers. The Mongolian soldiers on sentry duty wore inscrutable looks on their faces and gold "soyombos" on their epaulettes. The feeling was that I had landed in a country that only Tintin and his faithful hound Snowy could visit, a sort of people's republic of Shangri La. In reality I had arrived in Mongolia.

Nick Middleton, May 1989

Ballycastle is a handsome town, overlooked by the solitary mountain of to stay, dominate its centre. I watch a conservation. group of boys playing hurling with

sticks on the rosaway while I eat a Whitby is a place for weirdos. Always has chunky chocolate ice cream bar and slake my thirst with three cans of Coke. The pleasure of walking is its name them. Bram Stoker holed up in a simplicity: you just eat, drink, sleep and

John Birt, November 1990

office building where I had worked in 1987 was now a gutted ruin. Peaceful Christian quarters, untouched by fighting a few years ago, were now wind-worn with bullets and shellfire. On the Damascus highway, one hopeful had named his stall - amid the ruins of one mountain village - the Peace Café. But Lebanese soldiers on main intersections marshalled traffic with loaded rocketpropelled grenade launchers on their

Hugh Pope, November 1991

At night, Blackpool comes up suddenly at the end of the motorway like Las Vegas on the desert. It shimmers on the Lancashire coast the way West Berlin used to if you looked at it from the other side of the Wall, a tantalising come-on, a glittering commercial for ... excess. There's something potent Knocklayd - large, gently curved and for ... excess. There's something potent symmetrical. A solid mid-18th-century in the promiscuous use of electricity, church and an inviting inn, where I am especially in these tight-assed days of

Reggie Nadelson, October 1992

been, always will be. Fishing weirdos, folk singing weirdos, weirdo weirdos - you B&B here a century ago and penned his best known tale, in which two visiting lovelies, Lucy and Mina, reel around town feeling oddly queasy and having funny turns on the cliff tops. The normal Whitby explanation for this sort of behaviour - a surfeit of Tetley's and a crab sandwich that was a touch green at the edges - didn't stick, and so, thanks to Dracula, the place went up several rungs in the weirdo destination stakes, permanently, almost internationally.

This is a town where you can buy some of the best kippers in the world, smoked in front of your eyes; where salmon sneak their silvery way up the Esk to spawn in the wild hills of the North Yorkshire Moors; where the raw fresh air of the ragged, savage coastline can whip you up into a delirious chill stupor at the drop of a hat, even in midsummer. David Hewson, September 1993

Sometimes the Cuban spirit seems to be a human manifestation of the word "passion", with desire only marginally muted by malnutrition. You witness the passion with which salsa, an undiluted celebration of African roots, is performed even for unappreciative tourists; the emotion with which schoolchildren express their

willingness to "die in a hail of bullets like

forest trails.

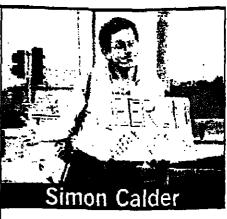
Chest, if forced to choose between social-isms of death; and the depth of devotion to the Caribbean's most dramatic island.

The Cordillera Guaniguanico, a mountain spine that arcs along to the western tip of Cuba, is even harder to drive around than it is to pronounce. Ear successive twist and turn of the track through the hills reveals a more striking image of tobacco fields, sumptuously green against the red earth and framed by towering limestone outcrops that make the horizon look like a row of particularly unsound teeth.

Simon Calder, October 1994

Sandwiched between two austerely Islamic regions, the five Batak tribes of north-west Sumatra are for the most part Christian, and very jolly with it, Christianity being a topping to ancient, animist beliefs. Unlike many other parts of Indonesia, you will find pork on the menu here, with the live ingredients engagingly rootling around villages. And the Bataks have no hang-ups about the uncleanliness of dogs; there are plenty of fluffy puppies gambolling around – which they also eat. Horses, too; in fact, anything going. They also used to eat each other, but stopped at the behest of missionaries in about the middle of the last century.

Harriet O'Brien, June 1995 This was the story for which Harriet O'Brien was awarded the Travelex prize as Travel Writer of the Year.



oday you have the chance to win what is probably the least appealing prize ever offered by a newspaper travel section. To celebrate 10 years of Independent travel, you can compete for a place on a writing assignment to East Berlin with me. It is offered on usual Independent terms for this sort of trip: strictly economy. And that, I believe, is the way it should be.

The first Saturday travel section of the Independent covered less than a page, yet it changed the agenda of travel journalism: fresh, sharp writing, looking at destinations and issues with critical faculties undulled by hospitality. Glasses of rose-coloured champagne in the first-class cabin no doubt ease the rigours of travel, but sometimes they have strings attached. The key to distinctive and deliantly inde-pendent travel coverage is freedom from the constraints of the "freebie".

In case you are unaware of the extent to which travel coverage is dictated by the provision of free flights and hotels, just one example of the sort of invitations I receive may shed some light:

Please call me on my direct line if you like the idea of a long weekend in the Bahamas before Christmas. We will be able to enjoy Caledonian's new premium 'Highland First' service, offering longhaul comfort seats in a separate front cabin. We will stay at the Atlantis Hotel on Paradise Island, the new property developed by Sun International. The four-night trip will give time to enjoy some of the beauty of the Bahamas. maybe testing your sporting talents with activities as varied as deep-sea fishing to golf, scuba-diving or some relaxed research of the beaches."

Yours for the taking, so long as you promise to write about it. At least one freelance journalist has secured a free Caribbean holiday by persuading a PR company that he was writing for us (the subsequent offer of a story was declined).

The reason hotels, airlines, tour operators and tourist boards are so keen to give away such expensive trips is summed up in one phrase: Equivalent Advertising Spend. This is the amount that each freebie is calculated to be worth compared with what it would cost to buy the same impact in press, radio or TV advertisements. You, the consumer booking a holiday, are paying for something ther less straightforward than advertising

The Independent prefers not to have its integrity compromised. In the real world of travel, as our postbag and experience testifies, things go dreadfully valing all the time. We buy tickets on the open market, as you do, and ask no favours. The person shifting uncomfortably in the seat on the 27-hour charter flight from Melbourne via all stations to Manchester may

well be an Independent journalist. Sometimes it all goes horribly wrong, such as when Cityzap (a bus company l recommended last March) runs off with our money. But incidents like that keep us focussed on providing clear advice on an extraordinarily complex industry. We may not be holier-than-them, but we are certainly as travel weary-as-you. Our terms of trade are straightforward. We are pleased to receive and read unsolicited travel articles, but before we publish yours you will be grilled on the provenance of the trip.

Perhaps a senior airline executive for a leading airline should have the last word. She was explaining the principle of "exclusive mentions", where an airline giving away a free ticket insists the newspaper does not mention competing carriers. She said bluntly, "If a journalist recommends our airline, the consumer is going to believe that more than our advertising." And that is the reason The Independent will remain so.

Can you face winning our competition?

A salvo of Arctic wind blasted through the city, prompting the people to set their collars a notch or two higher against the cold - and their fellow citizens . "Don't rush me!", pleaded the homeless man, clutching a plastic cup on one of the grubbier street corners. "One donation at a time, please".

ondon 1986, Moscow 1991 or Wash-Lington DC 1996? To mark 10 years of Independent travel writing, match descriptions with destinations to win a "holiday".

The prize

100

Trun's

The journey will begin on the evening of 7 November when the winner joins Simon Calder on an overnight rail and ship trek from London to the Hook of Holland, connecting with the train to Hengelo near the German border. There you will begin a day's hitch across northern Europe before checking in for the night - probably at a former DDR youth camp on the outskirts of Germany's biggest city..

The weekend will be spent researching Berlin exactly seven years after the Wall came down. The return journey will be the same trip in reverse (though possibly even colder), and should end in London on the morning of 11 November. The travel and accommodation costs will be met, other expenses are the winner's responsibility. It is hoped that the winner will write an Caccount of the trip, paid at normal rates.

If this does not appeal, the winner can opt instead for a copy of a guidebook to Berlin. The trip will then be offered to the runner-up. Should it again be declined, the option will pass to the third in line.

The tie-break

The first prize is a dismal journey across the North Sea, Holland and the autobahn network to Berlin. So what should be the second prize? Answers in 25 words or less.

How to enter

Match the text from Independent travel stories to a place and date. If you think the first quote goes with location/date (k), write I.k, and so on. Add your tie-break (see above), name, address and daytime telephone number, and post your entry to Ten Year Hitch, Travel Desk, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL. to arrive by 21 October. Fax: 0171-293 2451.

1. "Oh my God." she sighed, inhaling deeply as she moved on to the next bouquet. "Oh my God," she groaned again in fresh ecstasy. An assistant asked courteously if she wanted any help. "No thanks," replied the customer, "I just come in here when I need a break from life, ya know wad I mean?" 2. "Persons wearing smart casual attire in a good state of repair will be admitted", proposed a sign, a trifle unsure of itself. 3. Brochures emphasising the winter sun and huxury hotels seem tilted at yuppies and

unlikely representative. 4. Someone in uniform came in, his walkietalkie crackling. "Have you got an NUI card?" "No," I admitted. With a hint of miumph, he squawked into his radio: "No November-Uniform-Juliet card." 5. Spending just one minute at each exhibit,

it would take eight years to see the con-

tents. The Intourist tour lasts 90 minutes.

6. The Chief collects £2.50 per visitor, but it is customary to bring offerings of ciga-rettes and biscuits too. We had an intra-bus cultural clash over what sort of biscuits; I held out for Custard Creams, while the Germans wanted something a bit less tasty. 7. Centuries of history, odd little alleyways

and stunning Islamic designs have been distilled into a glorified carpet warehouse. 8. "Do you want first class tickets, or second class tickets - in the beck with the blecks?" asked the white ticket clerk. Second class was fine, just as comfortable and half the price. We brought the cheaper tickets, but they still made us sit in the separate compartment in the front with the black driver and postman.

9. The bar was fitted out in the worst possible taste, yet it had a curious elegance. The stools and sofas were covered with fake leopard skin; stuffed heads of big game poked out of the bamboo-lined walls. 10. "Pies, pies, pies," sighs a pretty blonde waitress breezing past with two slices of cherry, a blueberry and a piece of ultra-rich peanut butter pie. "More coffee?" offered an even prettier, blonder co-worker.

the middle class intelligentaia. I visited the a: Twin Peaks country, Washington, 1990 area as their self-appointed and extremely b: Tenerife, 1987

c: Senegal, 1986 d: The casino, Adelaide, 1993 e: Istanbul, 1991 f: Sarawak, 1994

g: Luton, 1992 1 h: Namibia, 1989 j: The Hermitage, Leningrad, 1990. k: New York City, 1988

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Southern cuisine and hospitality. With daily direct flights, the Real America is just a



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A veritable spaghetti of pistes

The Italian mountains are among the most spectacular in Europe. By Chris Gill

he weak lira has forced Italian skiing to the top of the agenda for many British skiers. Happily, the days are long gone when Italian resorts sold purely on price; you can now expect efficient modern lifts, state-of-theart snowmaking and some of the most assiduous piste-grooming in the Alps. The Italian mountains are among the most spectacular in Europe, and are dotted with deliciously distracting mountain restaurants. The resorts range from valley towns to remote mountain retreats; here is a tour of the 20 most appealing.

Directly west of Turin, the road and

railway make for the Frejus tunnels beneath the Alpine watershed to France. Just on the Italian side is Bardonecchia a pleasant, towny resort with a fair-sized intermediate ski area, the main drawback of which is a lack of altitude.

More interesting for a week's holiday is the Milky Way - with a claimed 400km of piste, one of the big linked areas of Italian skiing and indeed of the Alps in general. Sauze d'Oulx is the Milky Way resort to head for. Low prices and an impressively extensive, partly wooded local ski area are again attracting large numbers of Brits, but its reputation as prime lager-lout territory is history. It is no beauty, but has the feel of a village, which is more than can be said for Sestriere, over the hill.

This high, bleak resort has reliable snow and some excellent skiing (it's the venue this winter of the world skiing championship). But it's a sprawling mess of a village, with poor access to the rest of the Milky Way. A better alternative is the modern ski station of Sansicario.

The next concentration of resorts, north-west of Turin, is around the long Aosta valley, which comes to a precipitous halt at the foot of Mont Blanc (Monte Bianco on this side of the frontier). Or it did until the mid-Sixties, when a road driven beneath the summit of Europe instantly made Courmayeur the most easily accessible resort in Italy. Despite the lorries thundering past, the old. partly car-free village is also one of the most captivating Italian resorts, with stylish shopping as well as varied nightlife. The Mont Blanc massif offers spectacular runs for good skiers, but the local ski area is rather small and monotonous, mainly appealing to red-run skiers. It does have comprehensive snowmaking, though.



in Italy you can expect state-of the-art snowmaking and some of the best piste-grooming in the Alps

Thuile. It sounds French, and half the urbs reached by bus. accessible skiing is actually in France above La Rosière, visible across the Isère stretch away towards a different border. valley from Les Arcs. The road over the Petit St Bernard pass is a piste in winter, skirting a ski area that is not huge but has something for everyone. You can stay in a modern complex at the foot of the Cervinia itself is unique: nowhere else

A few miles down the valley is La village a walk away, or in sprawling sub-

Across the Aosta valley, side valleys Cervinia's skiing links with that of quintessentially Swiss Zermatt, but the connection is of little value - Zermatt's best skiing can't be reached in a day-trip. a modern complex at the foot of the Cervinia itself is unique: nowhere else slopes, in the partly restored old mining coffers such an extent of sunny, snowsure, by road, is the quiet, traditional village of the centre of the Italian Alps are several

gentle cruising terrain, free of nasty surprises; but advanced and adventurous skiers will soon get bored. Italian jollity goes some way to make up for the dreary, mainly post-war village; but there's something to be said for staying down the road in Valtournenche - not least the splendid home run at the end of the day.

Champoluc, at one end of the three-valley Monte Rosa lift network embracing the even quieter villages of Gressoney and Alagna. It is no rival for the Trois Vallées (and in fact you have to ski off piste to get to Alagna), but the area offers a real sensation of travel on skis over friendly terrain, and the scenery is impressive.

more-or-less isolated resorts. Much the most compelling is Livigno; its killer combination of a fair-sized, high-altitude ski area and low duty-free prices attracts more British skiers than any other Italian resort. It's awkward to get to and to get around - the village sprawls for miles along its wide, bleak valley - but the buildings are traditional in style and small in scale, and the "car-free" centre (complete with petrol station) is pleasant.

Most people get to Livigno via Bormio, a medieval spa town that is much more difficult to recommend. Consider it only if you like red slopes, and don't mind a lack of flattering blues and challenging blacks; if you like the idea of polishing your intermediate technique on a few long runs; and if you're happy to choose between staying in the atmospheric but inconvenient centre of town and staying in a modern skier's suburb.

Madesimo's skiing is not much more extensive but it is much more varied. It's an attractive mountain village, despite modern expansion, but is reached by the world's scariest hairpin road.

Finally, in the north-east of the country, north of Verona and Venice, are the omites, an area distinguished by mindblowing scenery and an amazing amount of skiing, mainly of easy or intermediate difficulty. The necklace of runs around the Sella massif has few equals, and the Dolomiti Superski pass covers these plus hundreds of other lifts in separate resorts.

Selva is the best-known base - a lively village, traditional-style but not superquaint - and is one of the best-placed for exploration of the region. Its local skiing has exceptional snowmaking coverage, too. But consider also Corvara for its direct access to the Alta Badia area (also accessible from San Cassiano), and tiny Arabba for its challenging, north-facing skiing off the main Sella Ronda circuit."

The Dolomites are at their scenic best few miles away around Cortina d'Arapezzo, the most upmarket of Italian resorts and a great place for leisurely lunches in the sun. Dramatic, pink-tinged spires and cliffs rise abruptly from the gentle slopes around the town, giving picture-postcard views throughout the ski areas. In a detached Dolomite area away to the west, Madonna di Campiglio is a sort of poor man's Cortina; the scenery may be not quite as spectacular, but the

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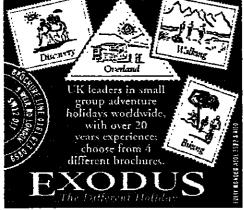
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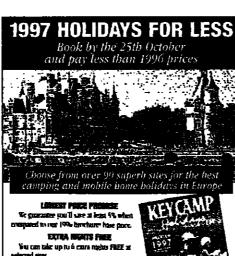


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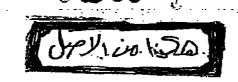
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ir Arnold Lunn's History of Skiing is petence". So dismayed is Sir Arnold by example, that skis were in use in Great Britain long Thore they ever appeared in Switzerland. Miners in Cumberland apparently used to "she" to work Among his proposals is that "a special staff in winter in the 1840s. And were you aware that when the Swiss finally caught up, in the late 1880s, it was largely thanks to us? As Sir Arnold says, we "can claim to be among the first to introduce skiing to Switzerland".

ters: the unearthing of prehistoric skis from Swedish bogs, the ideological disputes (one ski pole or two?) between the Austrian and Norwegian schools of skiing in the late-19th century, and so on. But sud-denly, on page 340, Sir Arnold turns introspective: chapter 28 is titled "Do we enjoy

He has his doubts. In the old days, he says, "We enjoyed ourselves with the happiness of children ... We skied badly, but we were cheerfully resigned to our incom-

full of good stuff. Did you know, for what has happened to the sport, "the of sandwich men with arms in slings and their heads in bandages, bearing large placards [saying] 'Victims of skiing accidents' would be engaged to hobble up and down platforms at Victoria and Charing Cross, in order to persuade outgoing winter sportsmen to abandon skiing".

The ultimate object of the association would be that "in time, the standard of skiing might be lowered to the primitive condition of happy inefficiency". Sir Arnold ing, the better you get at it, the does not dispute "that British skiing has sooner it's over. It is, specifiimproved out of all recognition since the war ... [But] do we ever enjoy skiing? I wonder. For we are always either skiing too fast, and frightened, or too slow, and

haven't already guessed - that the war to that everybody has the right to ski. All we view or hug a tree, and frightening no one. Over and over again.

which Sir Arnold refers is the First World War: his History of Skiing was published in 1927. But the issue he raises is still relevant, probably more so. Now that we have got to grips with living in an age of leisure we have learnt to make most of our pleasures last. Think of your other

favourite pastimes - perhaps sex, cookery or night-clubbing. If they were meant to be done in a hurry no one would have invented play or homepasta, and 3am on Sunday morning when the others close. Yet with skisooner it's over. It is, specifi-cally, good skiing that has to be discouraged.

When it comes to being a spokesman for lousy skiers, I suspect that I am better qualified than Sir Arnold. But my position is I should perhaps point out here - if you more moderate than his: I firmly believe

need is a policy of segregation, to protect the lousy skier from the pressure to become a good one.

For those whose heads are full of finer things than just powder and wax, a charlift can be as much fun as the piste: the

more you climb, the further away you get from cities. crowds and pollution; the view of the mountains becomes big-ger and better, and the amount of skiing time you store up increases. As with altitude, so with mood: when you are up you are up, and when you are down you are down.

So a lousy skier does not take a mad dash down the mountainside. With his "happy

inefficiency" he makes the most of the benefits conferred by the chairlift (which, in Sir Arnold's day were much harder won, by walking up) descending in gentle tra- justice that they should be spared the verses, stopping frequently to admire the

stephen wood

Here lies the first argument for segregation. Beautiful slopes are wasted on good skiers - all they see is a blur - so the most attractive resorts, particularly those with wonderful runs winding through woodland, should be reserved for lousy skiers. Good skiers would, of course, be offered a suitable alternative such as Sierra Nevada in

Spain, where most of the skiing is on a kind

of motorway. Perhaps, indeed, the Alps should be entirely devoted to lousy skiing: ecological groups such as Alp Action are particularly concerned about the damage done by offpiste skiing, and lousy skiers only rarely go off-piste because they are caring and environment-friendly people ... and because

it's so bloody difficult. Secondly, it is axiomatic that lousy skiers use lifts less frequently than good ones they must do, because they spend more time on the slopes. It is a matter of simple queues generated by skiers who use the lifts

Third, as resorts are segregated they will be better able to serve their particular clientele. Thus those for lousy skiers will have more and better restaurants on the slopes, because everyone resistop at them, Similarly, ski schools will specialise, with beginners' classes-only in some resorts (a lousy skier must at least be able to ski) and flashy, advanced instructors in others.

Sadly, Sir Arnold Lunn to admit that his association for the discouragement of skiing was "an idle dream ... Man is a competitive animal, whatever the Socialist may say .

My plan to protect the lousy skier has no future, either. What would happen? All the good skiers would want to go to their resorts, so they would learn how to ski badly. The crowding would be intolerable. (Sir Arnold's sub-text was that he wanted a bit more solitude: what would he make of Courchevel 1850 on a fine Sunday morning?) The only solution, then, would be to become a good skier. And that would destroy the object of the exercise.

White art in the Alps

Richard Holledge slides through the Portes du Soleil

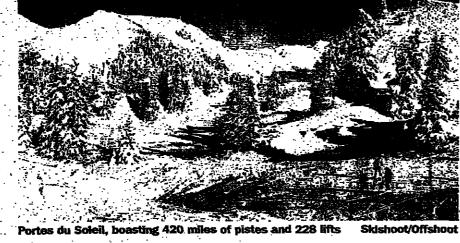
t was one of those mornings. Instead of the sun brightening the dents du midi, spurring me out of bed and on to my skis - fog. A. deep, blanketing, dampening fog which made all thoughts of skiing out of the question. Except of course, you can't not ski when you have only six days a year to pursue the white art.

So grumbling about the cold, the damp, the lack of visibility, our reluctant band of adventurers perched on the snow-covered chair lift as it swung out of the little Swiss resort of Champoussin and consoled ourselves with the thought that in these conditions, several pit stops and a long lunch were entirely justified and would at least cheer

the day. Then something extraordinary happened. The chair reached about 2,000 metres, burst through the cloud and we found ourselves in bright, sparkling sunshine. Not a cloud to be seen, except below us. The mountains clear against the blue sky, the clouds furled like a great white floor

around their upper reaches. We could see for miles. Which was just as well, because Champoussin is one of the many villages and towns which make up the Portes du Soleil - an area of skiing which boasts 430 miles of pistes, 228 lifts and straddles Switzerland and France. I've skied the area a few times, mostly in rain and white-outs, and found it difficult to journey between range and valley, resort to resort. However well signed - and sometimes you have to be very sharp eyed to pick up on the

AND INC.



the domaine - it makes a huge difference to be able to see not just the bottom of the run but into the next valley as well.

Heartened by the dramatic change in climate we resolved to ski to the furthest peak on the horizon, the Pointe de Nyon in Morzine.

The joy of the Portes du Soleil is in the feeling of getdon't ski much more in a day than you would in a more A determined stride compact ski area. But as you through the town, (well, the

oussin we scrambled through through the low-lying cloud to the Avoriaz territory. At itself to sustain the interme-which point we settled for the diate skier for a week.

little signs on the Swiss side of first hot chocolate of the day with a Wilhemina chaser - a rather fierce pear liquor - to quicken the heart.

Skirting Avoriaz, rackety. modern, with apartment blocks like stalagmites, we cruised gently in the sun down a succession of blue runs - the kind of runs through woods and past mountain restaurants that you feel you could ting places. You probably do all day - until the gondola which takes you into Morzine.

A determined stride go from place to place, valley- driver of the navene which is to valley, you feel as if you do. _ meant to take you to the gon-From the top of Champ- dola refused to stop), and we were in a completely new area the new snow and back of the circuit. Morzine has a different atmosphere to its Les Crosets, a couple of hotels brash neighbour, Avoriaz. It is and bars and a link to the more sophisticated, has a betpretty Swiss village of Chamter range of bars and cafés and pery, and took a ride on the a ski area linked to nearby Les fast new four-seater chair into Gets which is big enough in

of local red.

The weather fluctuated from the brilliant to the brouillard, the snow from muddy to marvellous. As we skied in and out of the changing conditions, goggles were put on and taken off, ski suits loosskis at the bleak Plaine de Nyon and discussed the final assault on the Pointe over steak haché and a litre or two

We skied with considerable panache after lunch - the forbidding black from the top held no perils. And we were so exhilarated by the easy skiing towards Les Gots we didn't realise that we had covered an entire circle and were back at Nyon where we had rested one hour before. We blamed our unofficial guide. She blamed the red wine. Now things got tense. The

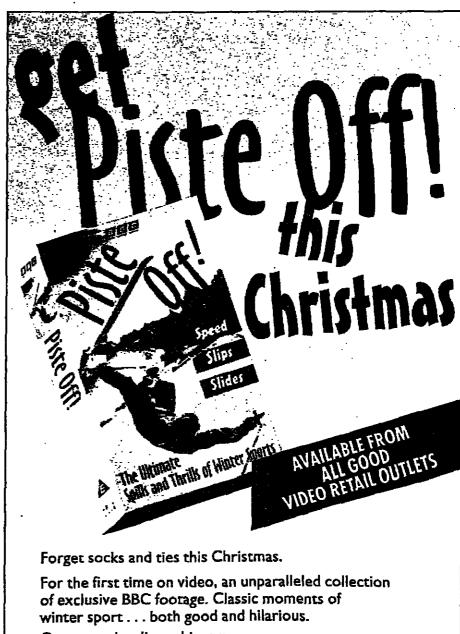
last lift back to Champoussin

leaves Les Crosets at 4.30pm sharp. We were at least eight lifts, one walk across town and six runs away. Received wisdom was that we had to leave Morzine at 2.30. It was now

Valuable seconds were lost when one of the party elected to head back to Morzine; it got tense when the chair link to Avoriaz stopped for five minutes; it got irritating when we turned loft after Avoriaz instead of right and had to clamber back up the hill.

It seemed sensible to spurn the challenge of the Cha-vanette, between Avoriaz and Les Crosets. It is one the most demanding runs of the area, a fact not helped by the fact that many people choose to go down on the chair and pour scorn on your endeavours when you finally reach the bottom, quivering and shaking. A narrow entry point. a big black sign which warns ened and zipped up. Feeling as proud as an advance party climbing Everest, we pitched very top make it a run to attempt when you are feeling relaxed and confident and not rushing for the 430.

We opted for the direct route, slithered untidily down the slopes above Les Crosets and hit the connecting chair at 4.29. As I slid off the chair at the top, the lift clicked to a halt. Silence. The sun disappeared behind the range, the snow acquired that springtime, early evening crunchiness and we shushed back to Le Poussin, a small friendly bar on the slopes in Champoussin, Only one challenge remained. Who was to buy the first round of b. eres



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Listening to the grapevine...

Anna Pavord visits a pocket vineyard squeezed behind a terrace in Hammersmith

could get drunk on the smell in our kitchen just now, let alone the brew that is responsible for it. It's damson wine. Three gallons of it are frothing with dangerous energy alongside the Aga. Gas escapes in regular bubbles through the of tropical frogs. With each plop, the sur-rounding air becomes more heavily intoxicated. It's heaven.

Three years on, that brew will be rather more dangerous than port, though with the same delicious tendency to light up your innards. There's nothing like damson wine to make you aware of exactly where the gullet and digestive tract are in your body.

We planted a couple of grape vines when we first came to our house, and trained them on wires along one side of a vegetable plot. My husband hoped to be able to produce vintage brews from these, but they've been a failure. I now learn from Jim Page-Roberts that we've got the wrong sort of vines: Reisling Sylvaner (Muller Thurgau). It's one of the most widely planted white wine grapes in the country, but with us it has been very prone to rot and mildew. You can spray, of course, but I want to drink wine, not cocktails of copper and sulphur.

Jim Page-Roberts is now on his third vinevard. That's if you can call a 10ft x 30ft back yard in Hammersmith, west London, a vineyard. I think you can. It's got 14 vines in it, which is 13 more than most of us grow.

Before he came to London, he had vinevards in Cambridgeshire and Hampshire. His star vine is 'Triomphe d'Alsace', but the French, he says, are snobby about it because it's not a "classic" Vitis vinifera variety. After experimenting with most vines that can be cultivated in this country, he now grows only those that will produce a crop without the prop of sprays.

'I was at a vineyard in Cahors in France - that was when I made a living writing about wine - and I saw grapes there being harvested that were absolutely blue with copper. Commercial growers spray at least seven times with copper during the growing season and three times with sulphur. I

wanted to great without spraying."

His vines are trained up and along the brick walls that make boundaries either side of the garden and over four strong



Jim Page Roberts-and star vine 'Triomphe d'Alsace'

At the end of the garden is a small octagonal hut, just big enough for two chairs and a table, where Jim Page-Roberts can sample his wines and admire the patterns of leaves and fruit that the sun throws on the paving slabs under the vine tunnel. It's like being in a room done out in William Morris wallpaper.

His 'Triomphe d'Alsace' is a monster, trained on a single stem up the left hand, south facing wall, over one of the hoops, along the top of the right-hand wall, right the way round behind the hut and then back to meet itself again on the left hand wall. All along the stem, spurs break out, hung with bunches of small black grapes. And there's not a blotch of mildew anywhere.

Any day now he'll be picking the grapes and making his Hammersmith Nouveau. Red wines are very much easier to do in as well that season as ever before." this country than white ones, he says, and his method - now that his wine is for home consumption only - is very simple. He doesn't use a press. He doesn't jump up them tantalizingly just out of reach of your off the resulting brew into a glass demijohn to ferment. But he drinks his wine young.

The best way, he says, with English reds. He makes three dozen bottles each year

In winter, you have to prune, for in our climate and soil, vines grow vigorously. If you leave it until spring, when the sap is rising, the vine bleeds copiously.

How copiously, I never knew until Mr Page-Roberts told me. He'd experimented, of course, cutting off a large branch of his Triomphe d'Alsace' in spring. It produced a pint of sap every nine hours for 13 days before the cut healed over and the flow was staunched. He had tried stopping it himself, with bitumen, with tourniquets, with a red hot iron, but to no avail.

"And did the vine die?" I asked with huge anxiety. "No" he replied briskly. "It made no difference whatsoever. It grew just

Still, I'm not sure the vine would survive repeated attacks of that kind. Best to stick to the dormant season. Pruning is not difficult once you understand why you are steel reinforcing rods that hoop over the yard from on the grapes in the bath. He has doing it. It can be rather like wine drink-yard from on the grapes in the bath. He has doing it. It can be rather like wine drink-yard from on the grapes in the bath. He has doing it. It can be rather like wine drink-yard from on the grapes in the bath. He has doing it. It can be rather like wine drink-yard from on the grapes in the bath. He has doing it. It can be rather like wine drink-yard from on the grapes in the bath. He has doing it. It can be rather like wine drink-yard from on the grapes in the bath. He has doing it. It can be rather like wine drink-yard from on the grapes in the bath. He has doing it. It can be rather like wine drink-yard from on the grapes in the bath. He has doing it. It can be rather like wine drink-yard from on the grapes in the bath. He has doing it. It can be rather like wine drink-yard from on the grapes in the bath. He has doing it. It can be rather like wine drink-yard from on the grapes in the bath. He has doing it. It can be rather like wine drink-yard from on the grapes in the bath. He has doing it. It can be rather like wine drink-yard from on the grapes in the bath. He has doing it. It can be rather like wine drink-yard from on the grapes in the bath. He has doing it. It can be rather like wine drink-yard from on the grapes in the bath. He has doing it. It can be rather like wine drink-yard from on the grapes in the bath. He has doing it. It can be rather like wine drink-yard from on the grapes in the bath. He has doing it. It can be rather like wine drink-yard from on the grapes in the bath. He has doing it. It can be rather like wine drink-yard from on the grapes in the bath. He has doing it. It can be rather like wine drink-yard from on the grapes in the bath. He has doing it. It can be rather like wine drink-yard from on the grapes in the bath. He has doing it will be a supplied in the grapes in the bath. He has doing it will be a supplied in the grapes in the bath. He has doing it leaves and dark bunches of grapes, all of adding yeast and sugar and then draining them. And (like drinking wine) you learn fastest about the subject by doing it, rather than reading about it.

You must have some kind of support to train the vine on. Tie the single stem in as it grows and then spur prune it each winter. A spur is the name for the point where a side branch breaks away from the main stem. You need to cut back the side branches leaving just two buds-worth of each branch at each spur. The grapes will be produced on the canes that grow from these spurs in the following season.

In summer, the pruning need not be so calculated. You just chop back leafy growth where it is over-exuberant, so that light and air can get through to the fruit. In commercial vineyards, this is is now done with mechanical hedge cutters. Take heart from that and remember it the next time you open a book and panic at the sight of guyot, dou-ble-guyot, Geneva double gurtains, Kniffen and multiple cordon praising systems for vines. Pruning is a game, gardener against plant, and experienced players like finding ever more complicated ways of playing it.

The other great success in Jim Page-Roberts's garden is the strawberry vine. generally listed as Vitis vinifera 'Fragola'. It is better for eating than for wine making, he finds, as the gravity give a slightly foxy taste to wine. "Interesting in blends", he says, "but an acquired taste on its own."

His fruit turn rich strawberry pink when they are ripe, but he says there are similar clones that produce green or black fruit. The vine is healthy, never needs spraying, but unlike 'Triomphe d'Alsace' does not produce leaves suitable for stuffing. They are rather thick and felted. As the grapes ripen, the foliage turns yellow, with the veins standing out prominently in green.

He's waiting now for a cutting of a vine grown by a Kent enthusiast with whom he's been corresponding. Called by the Guinness Book of Records the Dartford Wondervine, he thinks it's probably Vitis riparia.
It produces for its owner, Leslie Stringer. a staggering harvest of 2,300 kg of grapes a season. Containing that in a garden 30ft x 10ft will tax even Mr Page-Roberts's

Both Triomphe d'Alsace' and 'Fragola' are available mail order from B R Edwards at Sunnybank Farm, Llanveynoc, Herefordshire HR2 -ONL (01873 860698). Mr Edwards sells the widest selection of vines in the country. Send a stamped, addressed envelope for the full list. For an engaging account of Jim Page-Roberts's experiments with vines read his book "Vincs and Wines in a Small Garden" (The Herbert Press £14.99).



cuttings

David Berkley of Bridgwater writes with a problem about pears. "We have a 'family' pear tree, originally with William's Bon Chretien'. 'Louise Bonne' and 'Conference', planted in 1973. How do we know when to harvest and how to store? Occasionally we get one that is just perfect, but more often they are either wooden or rotten. Perhaps we have the wrong varieties?"

The 'William's Bon Chretien', should be the first to ripen and should be picked while still green (usually in early September) just as soon as the stalk of the fruit will part easily from the tree. Then the fruit should be stored in a cool place for one or two weeks and eaten as soon as they start to soften. It's a fabulously flavoured pear, but susceptible to scab, unless it has perfect soil to grow in.

'Louise Bonne of Jersey' and 'Conference' are both slightly later to come into season than the 'Williams'. They should be ready to eat during late October and November. But, again, the fruit should be picked as soon as it will part from the tree and stored in a cool place to finish ripening. They will usually take between one and four weeks to reach their peak. Once there, they go off very quickly.

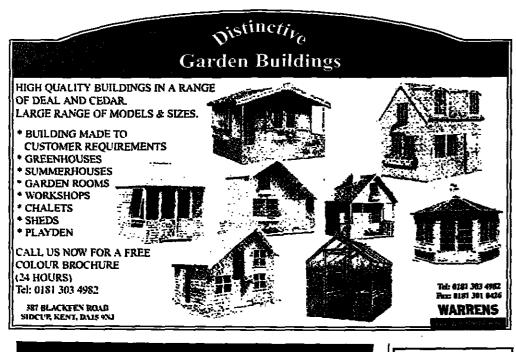
It was quite odd of the grower from whom Mr Berkley bought the family pear to put 'Williams' and 'Louise Bonne' on the same tree. They are well known to be incompatible in terms of pollination. His 'Conference' must be working very hard to cover both the other vacties as well as itself.

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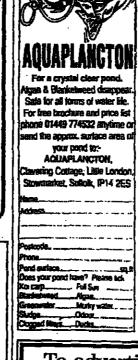


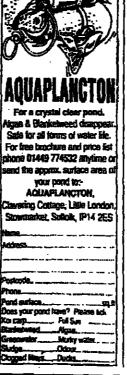
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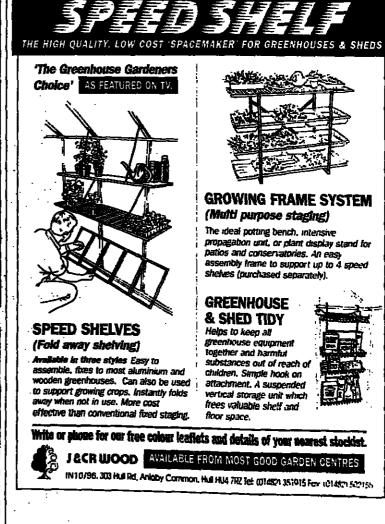
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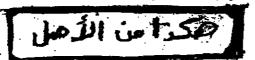


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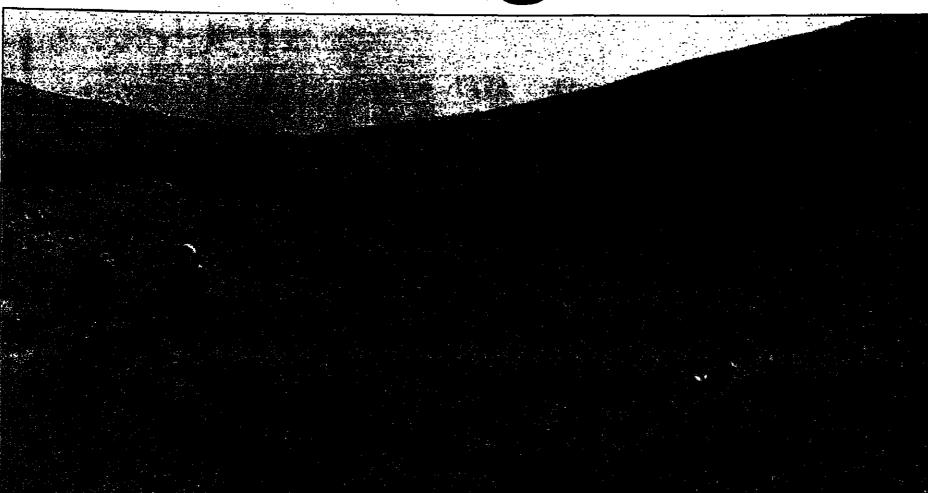
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and striding out for a beer



A taste of the spectacular walks

country walks Worth Matravers, Dorset

he south-west coast has one of England's most spectacular long-distance walks, stretching for 500 miles from Poole Harbour to Land's End and back along the Bristol Channel and into Somerset. For those without a month or so to spare to follow the whole route, this four-mile walk around St Aldhelm's Head in Dorset will give a least a taste of the

The large car-park in Worth Matravers, complete with information boards and public toilets, suggests that tourism has long replaced quarrying or Purbeck stone as the most important local industry. Once the crowds of summer visitors have gone, however, the Isle of Purbeck can seem curiously semote and bleak. Walking from the car park ast the Square and Compass Inn, the village centre, with its retty little duck-pond, looks far too cosy belong to such a wind-swept landscape.

The route down to the coast, signposted to Winspit, passes by a row of cottages before leading through a gate out into open fields. The sea lies straight ahead, the horizon framed by grassy hills. East Man and West Man, their steep slopes terraced with the contours of medieval lynchets. Beside the path, a stream-bed, densely overgown with hawthorn, ash and ivy, cuts an ever-deepening gorge down to the sea.

The coastal path to St Aldhelm's Head is clearly marked above the shore at Winspit, but it is worth pausing to explore the old stone quarries that honey-comb the cliffs. Gigantic galleries, 100 feet or more in depth, are cut into the rock-face, supported on slim columns of uncut Purbeck stone.

Returning to the coastal path, the route climbs steadily towards St Aldhelm's Head. In places perilously close to the cliff edge, with unwelcome glimpses of the boiling surf 300 feet nelow, this not a walk for those without a head for heights. Even meeting other walkers can occasionally challenge the conventions of good manners through a fear of stepping out

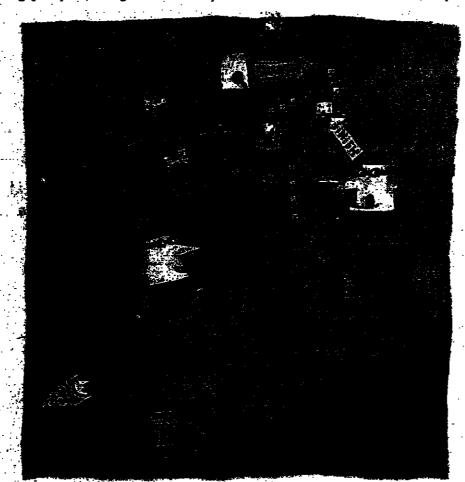
politely into space with a final cheery comment

From the coast-guard look-out on St Aldhelm's Head, some 50 miles of coastline can be seen, from the Isle of Wight to Portland Bill. There is a most unusual Norman chapel: square, unadorned and massively constructed to withstand the elements. Deeply etched graffiti on the stonework of its dim interior suggest that "tagging" was a well-established custom even in the 18th century.

For those whose need for exercise is waning by this point, a straight and level track pro-

vides a short-cut back to Worth Matravers. Continuing along the coastal path, the more determined walker is rewarded with some stunning views of wild cliffs and wooded valleys; an enormous and unblemished landscape as fine as any to be seen on the south coast. The closer prospect is rather less appealing; a steep descent almost to sea level, followed by a weary climb back above 300 feet.

The route back to the village diverges from the coast path just inland from Chapman's Pool, a sheltered bay of clear, still water far beneath the cliffs. At Weston Farm, the path



becomes a tarmac lane leading back to the familiar duck-pond and, far more importantly, to the inn-sign of the Square and Compass.

Photograph: Nicholas Turpin

This pub was once a favourite hang-out of Augustus John and is still defiantly eccentric in both its management and decor. Farmyard fowl peck around the outdoor tables, perching on assorted lengths of rope and driftwood that fall somewhere between installation art, an adventure playground and the collection of a ship-wrecked sailor. Indoors, there is nothing so newfangled as a bar; just a serving hatch and rooms the colour of tobacco, with benches round the walls. The landlord, Charlie Newman, is the fourth generation of his family to run the Square and Compass and shows no inclination to alter its atmosphere. Food is very basic, but the homemade pasties are delicious and the beer beyond all criticism. With a view across the valley to the sparkling sea beyond, it is a memorable destination for a walk.

Matravers is signposted from A351 between Corfe Castle and Swanage. The car park is to right of road on entering village. From the car park, follow the lane down into village, bearing right at Square and Compass inn.

 Bear left at the duck pond, following the sign to Winspit. Twenty yards down the lane, turn left

down a drive in front of terraced cottages. Follow the footpath sign through a gate into open fields.

 Continue for one mile until you reach Winspit quarries. Returning, 100 yards from quarries, follow waymarked path to St Aldhelm's Head.

 At St Aldhelm's Head, continue along the coastal path for Chapman's Pool. There are easy shortcuts back to Worth both from the headland and the bottom of steep valley. Above Chapman's Pool, turn right over the style on a waymarked path to Renscombe Cross the farm lane and continue on the

footpath past Weston Farm to Worth. Continue past the duckpond to the Square and Compass (01929 439229).

Duff Hart-Davis "16,000 letters of objections forced planners to accept their ideas were unpopular"

arlier this year I described my efforts to judge the finals of Gloucestershire's best-kept village competition, the Bledisloe Cup Well last neckend I want Cup. Well, last weekend I went round with a small official party presenting the prizes, to High-nam, Oddington and Cherington, winners in the large, medium and small divisions.

It was a fine, windy day, with everyone in good spirits. Yet at Highnam, between Gloucester and Newent, I was outraged to hear that the village is under severe pressure from the County Council to accommodate dozens, if not hundreds, of new houses, in developments that would wreck the admirably balanced environment created by hard work and imagination. Almost as bad, every 12 hours the B-road which cuts through the edge of things.
the village carries 400 lorries, Two facts are clear. One is many of them heading across country to evade the Severn bridges, whose crazy toll system permits drivers to cross free in a westerly direction. and to pay only when they come east.

Highnam, in other words, though judged the best-kept large village in the county, is on the point of being wrecked by inadequate planning controls. Moreover, it is only one among hundreds of rural settlements survive one park, but not - it threatened by house-building on a monstrous scale - because the Government has decreed that Gloucestershire must find room for 53,000 new houses by the year 2011.

Is there any real need for so many new dwellings? Detailed investigation suggests that the figures from the Department ously flawed. The numbers started to talk about rejuveare merely a projection of nating town centres, and the trends between 1971 and 1993, council was minded to and depend heavily on the fact that, during those years, annual migration into the county averaged 2,700. Privately commissioned research has shown that last year the figure was below 2,000, and that, at this rate, only 41,000 new houses may suffice. The burning question is,

how can local planners, who are goaded by developers offering fortunes for building land, be made to acknowledge such truths? With great difficulty, is the short answer. Yet one gleam of light has recently appeared. Opposition to the Gloucestershire County Council's draft structure plan proved so virulent that the document has been withdrawn. Some 1.600 letters of



they are about to make an attempt to gauge grass-roots

Meanwhile, the most acute local threat is to Cirencester, which is anxiously awaiting a decision by the Environment Minister, John Gummer, on whether or not he will sanction the creation of two non-food retail parks on the outskirts of the town. Mr Gummer has professed his belief that smalltown centres should be protected - but has he the power or the guts to put words into practice?

The centre of Cirencester is still amazingly intact. The broad, slightly curving Market Place is flanked by time stone houses; street markets, held here since Domesday, still take place on Mondays and Fridays. Excellent shops - both in the Market Place itself, and in the narrow streets winding off it make the town a very attractive place in which to stroll, chat, window-shop or buy

that locals loathe the idea of retail parks: a petition against the developments was signed by 4,000 people, with not one vote in favour. The other certainty is that the establishment of two parks would deal a deadly blow to traders in the centre of town. Already two new supermarkets on the fringes, a Tesco and a Waitrose, have drawn off much business. Small traders might is generally agreed - two.

According to Peter Stringfellow, proprietor of the Crocodile toy shop and a leader of the opposition, the Cotswold District Souncil has made "a bloody noisense" of the whole affair. "When the first application came in, from Bannertown Developments. of the Environment are seri- he says, "Mr Gur Mer hadn't berley Securities, applied to build on a site slightly closer to the centre, councillors were marginally in favour of that. In fact they don't want either." The result has been a public inquiry, with the decision referred to the minister.

 I find it astonishing that councillors could have given the proposals any encouragement whatsoever. Have they not visited Stroud, whose centre is now a wasteland of boarded-up shops? Have they not seen how the middle of Tewkesbury has been gutted by out-of-town development?

Come on, minister! Even if it is one of the last constructive decisions you make in the present Parliament, for heaven's objection forced the planners sake take a tough line and give to acknowledge that their the lie to the north-country ideas were highly unpopular, verse which ends: "And a and now, for the first time, toothless ewe is a gummer."

Ploughing the competition

Richard D North follows the field from horse to tractor

- the sod-polished plough cleaving the fructifying earth that it's good to note that there the formation of the Trumpet Ploughing Match in 1944.

According to Douglas what no one could have pre-Probert, retiring president of dicted is that horses have the Trumpet and District Agricultural Society (the Trumpet is a famous pub and crossroads outside Ledbury in Herefordshire): "The war was in full swing. Petrol was rationed, so you couldn't go anywhere for a social occasion. But you were entitled to go to a ploughing match - that was all right. You could legitimately go to that sort of thing". There was also the natural fierce competitiveness of young people - even those involved in what looks a quiet and not obviously sporty business such as farming.

The oddest thing about the modern ploughing match, such as the Trumpet's held last Thursday or the National Championships which will be was eight, and by the time I beld today and tomorrow, is was 14, I could do any work that they look now just as they with horses," he says.

here is something so lyzi-cal and moving about after the war. There is, of course, the same array of tents, and the buildings of the host farm may well not have changed much. The matter of was a fine, worldly reason for old macs, and serviceable tweeds and wellies is more or less an unchanging one. But made a comeback for competition purposes

Stan Hill, now 76, has ploughed at nearly every frumpet match, and won quite a few (he took a third in 1944. but had progressed to a first in 1952). He doesn't plough now, but judges others instead, as he did on Thursday. He was one of the pioneers of a way of getting a living in the country which is now very common for the young of farming families: after the war he bought the hest tractor he could afford and put himself to work as a contractor. He had begun on horses, of course. "I worked with them until about 1938. I had worked with them since I

Mr Hill always enjoyed his tractors, and thinks he's had a brilliantly interesting life. "Mowing, reaping, ploughing, planting, wood cutting - that was my year, always varied." And the work getting faster and faster. As tractors finally outnumbered horses in the Fifties, they also got bigger: in 1944, a decent tractor was 25 horsepower, in 1984 it was 80 horsepower, and nowadays giants of 120 horsepower are

Mr Probert points out that that a 12-acre field behind his

house at Shucknall near Ledbury is now "ploughed, worked and planted by a tractor in a day; a Standard Fordson tractor would take four days just to plough it, and you'd want good going for that." The Fordson itself was twice as fast at least as a team of horses. No wonder Dolly and Boxer were off to the knacker's. No wonder, either, as Stan Hill reminds us, that he and his sort could only feed a beleagured nation with the help of plenty of mechanisation. Sometime in the late Sev-

enties, many of the older

ploughmen realised they were missing the old ways, and began the current vogue for vintage ploughing. It has lured back to the tractor seat some men long used to bossing others from the wheel of a four-

Ploughing championships This weekend: 46th National Ploughing Championship, Swinefleet, near Goole, Yorkshire (on the A161 between Goole and Crowle); £4 per person per day; £1 for OAPs and children. 19 October: Liskeard, Cornwall; East Grinstead, W Sussex: Tethury Gloucestershire. 19-20 October: Almwick, Northumberland. 20 October: Brigg, Lincolrishire: Dumfries: Chesterfield, Derbyshire: 26 October: Deeping St Nicholas, Peterborough; Alton, Hampshire. 2 Novembe: Wakefield, W Yorkshire. 3 November: Wetherby, N Yorkshire: 9 November: Rotherham, S Yorkshire; 30 November: Montrose, Aberdeenshire. For More details contact The Society of Ploughmen, 01302



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The buying game

The house market is looking buoyant, says Penny Jackson

here is good news for those people wondering why all the activity in the property market stops short of their front door. Houses are selling faster than at any time in the past year, say Black Horse Agencies. Confidence in the market has meant buyers are acting more decisively, and first-time buyers are coming on to the market as they see prices rising. One in four homes sells in six weeks or less, according to Black Horse Agencies' Home Report, published this week. It takes an average of 16 weeks for a property to find a buyer, an improvement of five weeks since June.

The report looks at the trends, region by region, of the residential property market. It does, however, exclude most of London, as well as Scotland and Wales where Black Horse has no branches. The survey looks into such areas as the number of viewers per property, how close the sale price is to the asking price, breakdown of buyers, how much firsttime buyers pay, and the speed of sale from first instruction to an agreed price. There is a connection between categories. The fastest selling areas will be most likely to see sellers getting all (or a figure closest to) the asking price.

In the South-east, which accounts for most of the top 10 hot spots, properties sell at 95 per cent of the asking price. Meanwhile, in the slower North-west, with its average 23week sale, homes sell at 91 per cent of the full price.

A year ago, as a national average, a £100.000 property would harmold for £92,000, while today it would be sold for £94,000. Black Horse sees this increase as the strongest indicator yet that prices are stable. But prices have to be pitched sensibly, says Alan Gottschalk, East Midlands regional director. Anyone selling a home with an obvious drawback may well have to lower their sights. "In Chelmsford, for example, we have two identical flats for sale. One sold quickly, the other is difficult because it backs on to a noisy road. And he said that in Coventry a family house with an extension was proving much harder to sell than its smaller counterpart in the same street, because people are put off by the poor state of the house next door. "Buyers are still cautious. They know what they should be paying."

So how is the market working in practice in one of the

Black Horse hor spots? David Freeman lives in Hedge End. near Southampton, a fast-selling area with new developments. He has just put his one-bedroom, Bovis home on the market, and a sale was agreed within a day. In turn, he found a house he liked in 12 hours. In less than a week he had bought and sold. "I put my house on at £42,950, undercutting others by a thousand, and sold it for £41,000. But it is only recently that property has started to sell well here."

Caroline Helps, also from Hedge End, is well aware of a sudden upturn. She and her husband put their three-bedroom semi, built seven years ago, on the market in May. Nothing happened until the beginning of this month when it was taken on by Black Horse. "We sold it almost the next day. We put it on at £66,250 and accepted £65,000, which is what we wanted."

An acute shortage of good property is the chief complaint of agents across the country, and a breakdown of buyers in the home report goes some way towards explaining this. In the survey, 65 per cent of all purchasers have nothing to sell. The majority are first-time buyers, about a tenth are stepping back into the market after renting or staying with familv and friends and a small number are buying for investment.

First-time buyers now tend to skip a rung of the property ladder. Easy mortgage terms and a market which has not returned to 1988 levels, means they are going straight

In Plymouth, one of the 10 hot spots, developers are even converting flats back into single houses. Flats sell at auction for under £10,000. Nearly everyone can afford a small terrace house here," says Edward Heaton of Stratton Creber. "We have never had such a good year as this. We are even selling what I call the old dogs. But we are desperately low on stocks."



Who's been sleeping in my bed?

If you've ever wanted to know who used to live in your house, help is at hand. By Sophia Chauchard-Stuart

home? You may have met the people that architecture. The Conran group saw Olsen's the-Y sold it to you but what about the people who lived there 50 years ago, or the Victorian owners who first landscaped the garden? Some design devotees might want to know why the hallway was extended or when the attic was converted. Having a detailed history of your property might also add to its value, especially if you uncover fascinating facts of historical significance.

Penny Olsen, who owns the Research Workshop, spends her time answering these questions. To her business clients. Olsen is a historical architectural researcher, others call her the house detective.

Olsen became interested in the history of buildings after her children had grown up. She embarked on an Open University course in members of the aristocracy. "I love what I do. My ducing surprise gifts for family members."

sis on the Michelin Building and used her work as part of their planning application for the Bibendum restaurant. Olsen was encouraged by this. "I thought, well, if the Conrans think my work is useful, maybe other people will, too."

She sent out dozens of letters to property developers and got two jobs immediately, to research one site in the City of London, another in Reading, for brochures of the area.

When the property development market went into a slump during the recession, Olsen changed tack and targeted her work more at private individuals who wanted to know more about their family home. She now numbers famous film and television personalities among her clients as well as a lot of my work for private customers is in pro-

work is like a jigsaw, piecing together information, bit by bit, until I have the whole picture."

Olsen builds up her historical jigsaw using maps of the area from a variety of different periods, planning applications, land tax assessments and even drainage records. Structural and interior design details help her plot the course of the property's development while rate books, cross-referenced with census returns, electoral registers and mar-

riage records give clues of previous residents.
"Sometimes clients just want a list of names of people who have lived in the house through the years or a simple report of its historical backgrounds. Other people want a full-blown story, beautifully presented. I often work to a budget and

Each project takes up to six months; prices range between £250 and £3,000 and are presented as either a slim sheaf of papers between simple card or full leather-bound book, complete with pictures of previous residents, maps of the area and origi-

nal elevation plans of the property at various stages. "Sometimes the information is quite easy to find. But I had one building that was in a remote area and I wasn't sure I would be able to establish much. However, with a few days of research I found out that the building had been owned by Balliol College, so a wonderful archive existed."

One set of clients was delighted to find out that their house was once used as a flagellation brothel. Other stories are not so uplifting. She decided not tell one set of owners that their home was built on a plague pit.

Visitors' books can also be a rich source of history. Olsen unearthed one that the kray livins signed on their regular tea-time visits to the propcrty. Olsen's own visitors' book is signed by Flizaboth Taylor and Liberace. Both were customers at the chemist shop she and her husband owned on the King's Road during the Sixties.

Local archives and local people play a great part in her work. Older people's memories of events, scandals and personalities provide a sense of how the area grew in a way that statistics cannot.

Ironically, she has never had time to research the houses she has fived in. "The owners of our old house have asked me to look into the history of the property for them. I can't wait to see what I faid."

The Research Workshop 0171-035 2360

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Divide and

Flats are a growing market, says Rosalind Russell

took a lease on Gayhurst House, an imposing country mansion near Newport Pagnell, he provided his male servants with ragnesi, he provided his male servants with a remarkable five-seater lavatory in a circular building behind the house, surmounted by a carved figure of Cerberus, the three-headed dog. He lived in style, with his wife, five children, a chaplain and 31 servants. Now 26 households share Gayhurst – split up into flats and houses in the Seventies – and with its owners with the seventies. Seventies - and with its ornate mullioned windows, formal gardens and garages, it is far superior to other converted flats.

A one-bedroom apartment in Gayhurst will cost £97,500, say agents GA, for the

100 years remaining on the 120-year lease. Buying a leasehold flat is now less of a lottery, thanks to the new changes to the Landlord and Tenant Act 1987: Initially hailed as the leaseholders' charter, the Act a penthouse doesn't seem so daft. was found to be shot through with holes. While it gave tenants the right to first refusal of their freehold, the freeholder didn't face a penalty if he thumbed his nose at the Act. Now he does.

A few lunatic freeholders and residents who quibble about their share of the roof repairs will always be with us. And anyone considering buying a flat should still take particular interest in the efficiency of the managing agents. But flats still have advantages over houses for young professionals, older people trading down from an expensive house, or as a rental investment. While ily area, which is something our business lenders won't generally offer a mortgage on an ex-council tower block or flats above shops, the rest of the flat sales market is enjoying a mild boom. Especially in Birmingham and in London where there is busy regeneration in areas like Bermondsey, Clerkenwell and Soho.

he second Baron Carrington had a years ago. But that's the price being asked reputation for eccentricity. When he on one of the flats soon to be completed by Crosby Homes next to Birmingham Symphony Hall. Symphony Court, with octagonal domed towers and private terraces overlooking the canal, residents gym, underground parking and high security, has drawn buyers back to the city centre. John and Vanessa Clarke sold a house

in Walsall and bought a two-bedroom flat in the block, so they could be near their daughter Louise, 16, who will be studying in the city. Others buyers are finding the flats an attractive investment, with rentals on a two bedroom apartment achieving a far higher percentage yield than anything currently offered by banks or building societies. For Crosby the development has proved one of their most successful. With 112 apartments sold and only 30 left to sell, asking more than a quarter of a million for

In London, Strutt & Parker is selling a one-bedroom, second floor flat above Terence Conran's Mezzo restaurant in Soho for £310,000. In suburban Putney, that would buy a three-bedroom house, but a much longer commute to work.

Says Charles Pectless of Winkworth's West End office: "Buyers in Soho and Covent Garden tend to be ABC1, mid-thirties, affluent, from bankers to creative. Fitzrovia is the best value for money, being quieter than Covent Garden but having more life than Bloomsbury. It's not a famreflects... we don't open on Saturday."

Prices are sufficiently buoyant for Winkworth to have recently sold a onebedroom flat, directly opposite a 24-hour shelter for the homeless, for £150,000. A one bedroom, fourth-floor walk-up in ey, Clerkenwell and Soho.

King Street, Covent Garden has just sold for £185,000. In the three weeks between of Birmingham - albeit a penthouse - compiling the latest copy of the Winkworth might have seemed optimistic a couple of property guide and it hitting the stands in height windows.

branches, the West End-office has sold everything on their page bar two flats. Look for the well-run blocks," says

Peerless. "Bloomsbury's Bedford Court Mansions is one of the best because it's part freehold. Ridgemount Gardens where a four-bedroom flat will cost around £265,000, is also very popular. Of the new developments," says Peerless, "the ones which are selling fastest feature contemporary design, wooden floors and chrome fittings." It's a perfect description of a redeveloped printing works at one Dufferin Avenue, near Moorgate tube station.

Of the eight apartments put on the market a fortnight ago, only three are unsold. Architect/developer Roger Black has aimed at style-conscious buyers likely to be impressed by the German column radiators, ash flooring and "pod" bathrooms, Prices range from £175,000 to £215,000; the most expensive has a timber-deck roof terrace with views over the City. Selling agent is Hurford Salvi Carr.

Actor Alexei Sayle is leading the way in Bermondsey, buying into the new Tanners Yard apartments, a few minutes from Tower Bridge and close to where the new Jubilee Line extension will run. More than half have been sold or reserved in the old warehouse building. The developers say their buy profile is young, upwardly mobile professionals. Prices range from £139,500 to £199,950.

Shad Thames, a previously unloved area south of Tower Bridge, is also being talked up. A former tea and coffee warehouse in Boss Street is being turned into 109 flats, due to be ready for Christmas.

Tom Marshall of selling agent Cluttons says: "The refurbishment includes glass hifts, glass viewing platform with panoramic views." More sandblasted brickwork the woodchip of the Nineties - cast-iron columns, wooden floors and industrial





Top: Docklands apartments made for young professionals. Above: a Roger Black interior, for the style conscious

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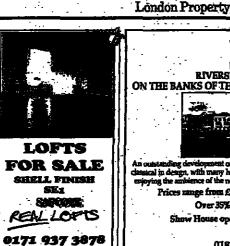
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Buying a home where the art is

Geoffrey Pilgrim finds affordable opulence in the north of Italy

ccording to a recent sampling of advertising responses, 4 per cent of British families who are planon ing to own a home abroad pre-fer Italy. This compares with 20 per cent for France and almost 40 per cent for Spain and its islands.

Pull these statistics apart and you find that Francophiles are split between those attracted to rural peace, lively ski resorts, or the glint of sun up the Med. Spanish prospects divide geo-graphically along those warm costas which are easily reached by plane, and the Canaries and the Balearics; and buyers subdivide socially into normal human beings and golfers.

British buyers of homes in Italy have a very different profile. They're not interested in ski property. They don't need to see the Mediterranean (or the Adriatic). Half their visits are made by car rather irrelevance. Usually, the older the property the better they like it. Their spending capacity ranges from £25,000 to £5m. Most are covert, or overt, intellectuals and art lovers. Some are politicians.

Agents describe British buyers as a varied bunch. Steve Emmett of Brian French says that most of his clients are "media" but essentials of the art of family life. people". Linda Trevella of Cosa Trevella says that most of hers are lawyers. Both are clear that ey do not want to form any kind of club for Brits - particularly as they come here looking for a very different litestyle.

Buying in Italy

Never take a DIY approach to property purchase. Deal with experienced agents and lawyers and don't second-guess advice, particularly on stated values and taxes.

Consent to build or extend in Italy

lasts for a specific period. Renew it if you can't perform in time. In rural areas most people take a relaxed attitude to wandering through private property. Get possible rights of way checked before signing your Deed of

than by plane. A nearby golf course is an ture, sculpture and painting; ancient farms built with an eye for site, form and materials; landscape that seems to have been carefully planned for maximum effect. The sound of music is everywhere, too; Italians invented opera – and most small town still have their own street bands. And food and drink are not fuel

From Italy's knee upwards, Tuscany and Umbria, the northern lakes, are the regions where the British buy homes. Many of the old city states in these areas retain their individual identities: Pisa, rent lifestyle. Verona, Florence, Siena, Bologna... Over An abundance of things which look the centuries, city fathers commissioned good, sound good and taste good are the stunning public buildings and villas, cas-



time, at prices you would expect for a habitable work of art.

But what's on offer at around £100,000, including purchase costs? Brian French is offering a four-storey, pink stucco farmgood, sound good and taste good are the stunning public buildings and villas, casmain attractions. Outstanding architectiles and palaces. Some of these private, the university, with shutters, beamed lots of marble in the bathrath, walk-in around the northern lakes. For less than

peperties reach the market from time to ceilings and other original features. It has wardrobes and a loggia overlooking olive £100,000 they are offering a fully turtwo bedrooms with en-suite bathrooms, two living rooms, mod cons, and views over medieval rooftops and streets.

In Liguria, Cosa Trevella has a two-bedroom village house, 20 minutes from the

groves. Half that distance from the Med they also have an olive mill, needing some work, in three-quarters of an acre. Both properties are an hour's drive from Nice

airport, a short hop across the border.

nished, luxury two-bedroom apartment. It comes with use of both an indoor and outdoor pool, parking, and views of Lake Como and the mountains.

Brian French & Co 0171-7358244; Cosa

'Five million borrowers are paying more than they need'

Although the mortgage market may be twitchy on election eve, there are still easy savings to be made by shopping around, writes Clifford German

ddie George may be fretting openly about the need to raise interest rates, but there is still a wide range of special offers around, including fixed rates for up to 10 years, and a variety of discounts and cashbacks for new borrowers and existing borrowers looking to switch lenders. According to independent advisers Berkeley Financial Planning, five million borrowers are still paying more than they need. Most simply do not realise the opportunities or advantages open to virtually all new borrowers and existing borrowers not trapped by negative equity.

Independent mortgage adviser John Charcol has just come out with a fixed years on up to 90 per cent of the prop-

some small borrowers - John Charcol's seems set fair, or to lock into a fixed rate offer will undercut the previous market of 7.99 per cent guaranteed until Januleader. Northern Rock, which charges 7.49 per cent and a £295 arrangement

John Charcol's penalty for redeeming the loan within six years is also slightly less Draconian, at six months' interest compared with Northern Rock's 5 per cent penalty, for borrowers who want out of the deal over the same timescale.

Brokers London & Country have also teamed up with National Countes Building Society to launch an Election

The general view is that the downward Choice mortage which carbiness in the downward country have also mortage with variable rates are beginning to increase again. Choice mortgage, which combines a 3 per cent discount on the standard variable rate (which is currently 6.99 per rate of 6.99 per cent guaranteed for five cent) for the next nine months with the option at that time to take a further diserty valuation. Even allowing for a hefty count of 1 per cent below the standard completion fee of £700 - which can be variable rate for the following four est rates in the United States are also added to the loan but will discourage years if the interest rate outlook still poised to rise once the Presidential

ary 2002. The maximum advance is 70 per cent of the property valuation, there is a £295 completion fee and a six-month interest rate penalty for early redemption, although the loan is portable.

As variable mortgage rates approach the low point of the cycle, and the discounts on variable rates start to shrink, the relative attractions of fixed-rate

trend in variable rates must have gone almost as far as it can in this stage of the economic cycle, even if the Chancellor does try to squeeze one more quarterpoint drop in base rates next month to make up for a dearth of tax cuts. Inter-

knock-on effects in the UK. For borrowers who do still think that discounts upfront are worth more than a fixed rate, Leeds & Holbeck is offering mortgages with discounts of 1.25 per cent for the next three years off its stan-dard variable rate, which is currently 6.99 per cent. Valuation fees will also be refunded if the loan is completed before the end of the year but the discount will be reclaimed in full if the mortgage is paid off within the first four years.

It is anyone's guess what the effect of the next UK election will be on interest rates, but it is a fact that interest rates went up after the 1979, 1983 and 1987 elections, and they only came down after the 1992 election because the pound fell out of the ERM

A new survey by Merrill Lynch shows 89 per cent of fund managers expect

election is out of the way, with inevitable base rates will be higher this time next year and past evidence suggests that rates will rise for two to three years when they do start to move.

The European single currency is also beginning to cast a shadow over interest rates, and one which will not please the Eurosceptics. Whatever you think about the principle of a European single currency it is generally accepted that UK rates will have to be higher outside the currency union than they would be inside, and the chances of the UK making a serious attempt to get inside seems to get dimmer by the day, regardless of

who wins the general election. The yield on Spanish government stock maturing in 10 years' time dipped below the equivalent UK government stock this week, not because the Spanish economy is in better shape than the UK economy, which it is not, but sim-

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ply because the money markets think Spain is making a genuine effort to qualify for a single currency, while the UK

As John Anderson, head of the fixed interest department at pension specialists National Provident Institution (NPI) points out, yields on all European gavernment stocks have been coming down. but while UK and German rates have been creeping, other countries racing to qualify for the single currency have been romping down, narrowing the gap between the highest and lowest rates and incidentally creating a vicious circle by reducing the interest rate burden on their economies.

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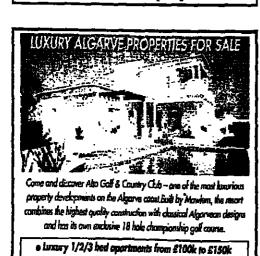
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It's good to be back in control of my cash

Gary Glitter's biggest mistake



or do you need it?". If I need it, I pursue it. If I just want it, I don't. Compared to the old days in the Seventies, that's a changed animal.

From 1972 till 1976, I couldn't do a thing wrong. I was top of the charts most of the time, and I found myself wondering what to do next. So I decided to buy a mansion, because that's what it says in the Elvis Presley Handbook for Upcoming Rock 'n'

I found a lovely property set in the middle of 12 acres. It cost me about £100,000 which, in 1973, was quite a lot of money. It was wonderful. One minute we were in one room in Brixton, and the next we were eating lobster and living in the most beautiful house.

Then I set about saying: "The on the heach. swimming pool's got to go there. I don't want an Aga, but I want similar to an Aga, so that's got to

owadays I always say to any water, so we had to put in a because I'd just sold 18 million myself "Do you want it, pipe from the main road, 12 acres records. away. It was a complete disaster.

I used to have a coach that would regularly go to the Playboy Club and say "Gary's having a party tonight, and you're all welcome". Then they'd all arrive at the house at 3.00 o'clock in the

I was getting plenty of business advice, but I just turned a deaf I was living in a rented house. ear. I did start drinking rather heavily, and I think that was probably the reason. People were trying to tell me - I was employing people to tell me - but I

wasn't listening.
It was only when I was in New Zealand, doing The Rocky Horror Show, that I got the notice telling me I was bankrupt. Then a friend of mine invited me out to Australia and we rented a house

To my amazement they were still taking my American Express card. It still hadn't really sunk in. I thought it must all be a mistake, played Norwich University and

When I did eventually go back to England I was offered a tour of cabaret clubs. I told them I belonged in the arenas, but they said clubs were all that was going, so I did the tour. They collected the money, and I was paid a living wage. The mansion went to the

I was living in a rented house. That's when I started to learn the game. I became a lawyer and an accountant and I started to learn that it makes sense not to spend more than you can earn. You can spend money while you're working but, if you suddenly stop touring, you can't go

on spending in the same way. In 1980, two punks from America showed up at one of my club shows and, because of the way they were dressed, they weren't allowed in. I thought that was wrong - there must be somewhere else we could play. So we

that sold out in about an hour. Then we went to three nights at Norwich, two nights at the ball at Christ Church in Oxford, and it just got huge. It started out as nos-

tuigia, but it went way beyond that. We toured for six years solidly round the universities, and it gave me a huge audience. Then we decided to try renting arenasized venues ourselves - the first one was the NEC in Birmingham. That was nine years ago, and it really took off. They sell out

I'm just starting now to become rich man as a result of taking care of business, but I lost 10 years in the middle of it all. You have to take advice and, every now and again, you've got to get off the merry-go-round and take stock of the situation. Fve learnt my lesson - it's not what I want, it's what I need. That's a good one for everyone to remember.

Gury Glitter was talking to Paul

Benefit trap for the middle class

The job seekers' allowance has pitfalls if you have savings or insurance cover, Stephen Ingledew warns

welfare state this week when on Monday unemployment benefit, one of the traditional cornerstones of the social security system, was abolished and replaced by the job seekers' allowance (JSA).

The new benefit is a further example of the Government attempting to reduce social security spending, particularly on middle income earners, and target benefits to the most needy. It follows the reduction a year ago in income support in respect of mortgage payments for homeowners who lost

But what does the introduction of JSA mean and how does this effect the provision we should be making against the consequences of losing our jobs?

ment. According to the Department of for other essential living costs. Social Security over 50,000 people a However, while such actions year will receive lower benefits than under the old system.

Instead of the payments lasting for 12 months, as with the old unemployment benefit, JSA will only be paid for six months automatically. If claimants are still out of work after those six months, they will be means tested to determine whether they are still eligible to receive JSA.

Individuals with assets and capital of more than £8,000 (excluding the home) will not receive any JSA after six months and those with savings between £3,000 and £8,000 will only receive partial JSA benefit.

Secondly, after six months even the benefit withdrawn if it is considered they are not making a "positive" effort to find a new job - for example, turning down a job because the pay is too low would not be justifiable.

Thirdly, the maximum weekly JSA of £47.90 is now lower than the previous unemployment benefit, and for

lower at £37.90 a week. There will be no escape from the Inland Revenue either as these benefits are taxable.

In theory anyone facing the possi-bility of losing his or her job should try to build up an emergency fund in a deposit account which could meet outgoings for at least three months, the average period that an average income earner is out of work.

Another consideration would be unemployment insurance, for example in respect of mortgage payments or loan commitments. Many mortgage lenders now offer mortgage payment protection plans which will pay mortgage interest payments for a year if policyholders lose their job, for a monthly premium of around £6 for each £100 The introduction ISA will further of monthly interest insured. Other reduce the state senefits of many policies cover mortgage payments for up to two years and s

However, while such actions would provide some peace of mind, the means testing system for benefits such as JSA does very little to encourage such private provision, and if anything acts as a disincentive.

For example, while the new JSA may prompt more of us to put some savings aside to tide over any unforeseen periods of being out of work, the irony is that those people who do save, with say a Tessa or PEP, will find their entitlement to JSA is reduced once the value exceeds the means test capital threshold of £3,000.

Although the value of any money held in a pension or life assurance policy would not be taken into account, those who are still eligible could have if you are fortunate to receive a lump sum of redundancy payment this would be taken into account through the means test and could disallow any entitlement to JSA after six months.

Furthermore, even those who forward plan and take out unemployment insurance may find that some of the insurance benefit is taken into account

serious "earthquake" shook the under 25-year-olds the benefit is even in determining eligibility for means-

Mortgage insurance payments are disregarded by the DSS for the means test if they specifically meet the cost of mortgage interest, but any excess payments which cover such items as endowment and life assurance premiums may not be and could affect enti-

tlement to JSA. So although the Government is using the "stick" of restricting social security ber tits for the unemployed to encourage us to fend for ourselves more, there is a severe lack of "carrot" to encourage more private provision through savings or insurance.

However, it is vital that we do not just sit on our hands. If you are made unemployed you should not be discouraged from signing on by the limited benefits on offer, as you may at least be entitled to National Ins credits which go towards your future state pension entitlement.

Ultimately, private provision, whether through long-term savings or insurance, is the only true way of being assured of some financial protection in the event of losing a job and will offer greater flexibility and choice than relying on the limited state benefits and conditions of the JSA.

The TUC's recent report on the JSA concludes: "Many middle class people are being frozen out of the welfare state at a time when they are more likely to need it." The changes are yet another clear indication from the Government that in in future most of us will need to rely on our own arrangements to tide us over the unforeseen events such as unemployment, particularly if we are enjoying average or above-average earnings while working and have built up some

Stephen Ingledew is development director of Frizzel Life & Planning, a sub-

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What these policies really cost you

In part one of a special personal finance investigation, Peter Rodgers and Nic Cicutti name the best companies for pensions and savings

any people put blood, sweat and tears into buying a home, and far less effort into investing in a pension or other long-term policy from an insurance company. Yet some of the insurance products on offer, especially the insurance products on offer, especially the performance of insurance companies and their products on offer, especially the performance of insurance companies and their products on offer, especially the performance of insurance companies and their products on offer, especially the performance of insurance companies and their products on offer, especially the performance of insurance companies and their products on offer, especially the performance of insurance companies and their products on offer, especially the performance of insurance companies and their products on offer, especially the performance of insurance companies and their products on offer, especially the performance of insurance companies and their products on offer, especially the performance of parts and their products on offer, especially the performance of parts and their products on offer performance of the life insurance counter sale if they were launched in the 1990s.

Indeed, with profits endowment policies, the traditional basis of pensions and other insurance companies and their products on offer, especially the performance of the insurance companies and their products on offer performance of the life insurance counter sale if they were charges their buying a policy from a life insurance companies and interpret performance of hard hitting OFT reports on over-the-counter sale if they were charges policy from a life insurance companies and insurance companies and their products on offer performance of hard hitting OFT reports on over-the-counter sale if they were charges policy from a life insurance companies and their products of the performance of hard hitting OFT reports on over-the-counter sale if they were charges policy from a life insurance companies and insurance companies and their products of the performance of hitc pension plans, are likely to be worth as much or more than a family home when they mature. A nice house at retirement pension.

weight as those about buying bricks and mortar. But much of the information published about insurance products is

performing.

The problem with many policies is that

To help clear away this fog, the Independent asked John Chapman, a former senior official of the Office of Fair Trading, to analyse the investment products offered by insurance companies.

ing new method of rating the permanent of insurance companies and their products, on which this analysis is based.

It shows which companies are selling the best products. Just as significant, it shows which of them can back their ont possible to work this out at the time they were bought.

Investment performance is important, of course. But the arithmetic of charges stand and have become very popular.

They are not nearly as transparent the overall yield of a policy by the equivalent of between 1 and 5 percentage. is not much good without a decent shows which of them can back their not possible to work this out at the time In the last few years, there has been a ing to good results in the past. The analygrowing realisation that decisions on investment need to be given just as much six will help buyers of new policies to make a choice, and those with existing

if they were not on the market already, nobody would ever think of inventing them. They occupy a niche rather like aspirin and paracetamol in the health

Buyers of with-profits endowments invest their money with no idea of what they are going to get back. There is a guaranteed annual bonus, but the level each mally declare initial charges of annual of providing and annual charges of annual c anteed annual bonus, but the level each year is at the company's discretion, based on its own indgement of performance. Around half the final proceeds are likely to be in the form of a discretionary terminal bonus that the company is not mindle that the company is not the initial charge on a unit-linked policy to gesting some content of the mailler paint can swell the initial charge on a unit-linked policy to gesting some content of the mailler paint can swell the initial charge on a unit-linked policy to gesting some content of the mailler paint can swell the initial charge on a unit-linked policy to gesting some content of premiums.

obliged to pay.
It is hard to believe that until 1995, sell-

mally declare initial charges of around per points a year. For those cashed in early, cent of premiums and annual charges of the reduction in yield can be 10 per cent

Not only are some of these numbers startlingly high, the range between best and worst is also extremely wide, sugindustry – they are so dangerous and have

It is hard to believe that until 1995, sellso many unexpected side-effects that ers of with-profits endowment policies

There is a simple reason why charges too much. The fact is that a company with with the biggest brand names or many unexpected side-effects that ers of with-profits endowment policies are the most important consideration in charges at the higher end of the scale ing teams, then charges should fall.

low charges. This is why charges are so important in making a decision about what to buy.

Life assurance is heavily marketed. In theory, charges should therefore drop as companies fight for business. But in reality there is very little evidence of this hap-pening, and some charges are actually rising. The reason is not hard to find. The insurance industry has been selling to a public that has not had the information

on which to make informed decisions. The only way to introduce real com-petition into the industry is therefore to put the spotlight on charges in an easily

accessible way, and keep it there.

If customers begin to seek out the lowest cost companies, rather than the ones with the biggest brand names or market-

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John Chapman's pioneering methods for companing performance between companies have been adopted by Money Marketing, the magazine for independent financial intermediaries, which asked actuaries at KPMG to carry out the detailed calculations for each company. Mr Chapman's analysis for the Independent uses Money Marketing's calculations. Fuller performance tables for unit-linked and with-profits policies are separately available from Money Marketing Customer Services, St Giles House, 50 Poland Street, London WIV 4AX, for £3.75 each inc p&p.

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The price of a poor performer: £55,000

he most obvious feature of the main table (right), which illuspensions based on with-profits policies, is the wide gap between best and worst performers at every stage. In cash terms, this gap rises to nearly £55,000 by the time the pensions mature. A similar pattern can be seen for all other products, as a result of the wide variations in the charges levied by life insurance companies.

The top four companies in John Chapman's rankings in the main table are the only ones that have projected above-average future performance and can support that with above-average past performance. In the rest of the table, the order of merit depends simply on the projections the compa-nies have made. The other summary tables (facing page) bear the same message - that only a handful of companies have proven capability to

A large group to watch out for is the ambitious improvers, such as Scottish Widows, Legal & General and Scottish Amicable. Across a range of products they are projecting better performance in the future than they have achieved the past. This may well be because they have decided to cut their costs to become more

Some of those at the bottom of the tables are actually projecting worse performance in the future than in the past, for reasons which are unclear. In the main table Scottish Provident and Axa Equity & Law come into this

One of the recurring features of the analysis carried out by Mr Chapman is the regular appearance of a handful of mutual insurers in the list of companies with low charging structures. Equitable Life, Standard Life and Norwich Union feature among the best performers among nearly all products on offer to policyholders. Conversely, Royal Insurance, Prudential and Axa Equity & Law, all proprietory companies owned by their shareholders feature among the bottom five tables.

Another feature of the main pensions table is the poor transfer values for policies in the early years. Only seven of the companies in the main table give you all your money back. even in cash terms without interest, when you transfer ther five years. Transfer terms in the first couple of years, which are not generally public, are often much worse, with some companies paying minuscule

The gap in charges between the top mium personal pensions, where a person pays £100 a month for 25. years, Equitable Life's final retirement fund, at more than £240,000, will be almost one-third better than Axa's £186,000.

After five years, the value of a General Accident pension transfer, the second-best, is 14 per cent better than Sun Life, third from bottom.

Regular-premiur	Regular-premium personal pensions – with-profits				
Сотрапу	Value at year 5 (£)	Value at year 20 (£)	Retirement fund (£)	Ratings: projections	Ratings:past performance
Equitable Life	7,099	57,961	241,076	A+ A+ A+	A+ A A
Clerical Medical	5,507	54,839	235,363	BAA	ВАВ
General Accident	5,715	53,612	228,685	BAA	AXA
Norwich Union	5,500	52,500	225,000	ВАА	вва
NPI	5,747	53,618	222,240	BAB	BCC
Scottish Amicable	5,705	52,343	223,790	BAB	CBB
Sun Alliance	6,500	52,300	215,000	A+ A B	CCC
Scottish Widows	6,395	51,135	219,235	ABB	BCB
Commercial Union	5,574	49,707	225,809	ВВА	хсс
Medical Sickness	6,280	46,300	247,000	A C A+	A+ BB
Standard Life	6,442	51,191	206,591	ABC	BBB
Scottish Mutual	6,381	48,812	208,576	ABC	BBA
Legal & General	5,550	52,055	205,845	BAC	CBC
CIS	_ 5,074	50,657	230,540	CBA	AAX
Scottish Equitable	5,165	50,958	236,100	CBA	CCA
Royal Insurance	5,126	49,010	227,258	CBA	C C C-
Wesleyan Assurance	5,516	48,109	210,214	BBB	AAB
Eagle Star	4,692	52,279	224,234	CAB	A A+ A
Prudential	6,353	49,360	183,502	A B C-	A X X
National Mutual Life	5,138	48,643	220,896	CBB	ÇBB
Britannia Life	4,956	51,634	218,000	CBB	C C C-
Britannic Assurance	5,447	49,426	201,259	ВВС	вхх
Scottish Life	4,883	50,433	218,825	CBB	BBB
NFU Mutual	4,955	50,958	212,543	СВВ	BAB
Guardian Financial	5,284	49,885	196,279	ввс	XXX
Friends Provident	5,290	43,500	221,000	ВСВ	ХСВ
Royal London	5,359	48,991	193,999	ввс	ВАА
Scottish Provident	5,280	49,600	197,000	ВВС	BAB
Colonial	4,907	48,112	200,901	CBC	XXX
Sun Life	4,915	43,865	216,024	CCB	C-BB
RNPFN	4,800	31,170	235,435	C C- A	X A+ A+
AXA Equity & Law	4,350	42,600	186,000	C- C- C-	CCA
Average	5,496	49,549	216,693		
Based on investmen	t of £100 a	month, stai g og a	at age 30.		

One factor to watch out for is the sales pitch.

X = data not supplied or not yet available.

Investment funds are assumed to grow at 9 per cent a year.

There are relatively few companies with top performance across the board. In an analysis of 10 products, only Equitable Life is always in the top five. Standard Life has five in the top five, Norwich Union and Scottish Widows four, General Accident and Friends Provident three.

"halo" effect, where a company has these tables is the relatively poor than their older rivals. This is partly and bottom performers can be sub-stantial. In the case of regular-pre-mium personal persona When they first began to be set up ii the early 1990s, it was predicted that companies like Midland Life, Barclays Life and NatWest Life would rapidly grab huge market share by launching cheap products at their

large potential client base. For most products, the banks' insurare so bad.

A major disappointment from ance subsidiaries are usually dearer the tables.

This is partly because they are so new, and there is no way of measuring their long-term performance, and partly because some are poor performers. In some cases, bancassurers This has not happened in the main. do not supply the figures because they

ings is that a company's final performance – the cash it delivers when a policy matures - is not always the best way of measuring how good it is. More than 70 per cent of savers who start a regular-premium pension policy lapse well before final maturity. It is vital to know what they will be paid

should they pull out early. The new ratings system marks companies on the basis of how much they pay back investors, or give in transfer value, in the early stages of a policy, part way through it, and at maturity. These calculations are done twice. First, the system rates a company's past performance, based on the amount of cash paid out at the three different stages. The same cal-culations are done again, based on the com-

pany's own projections of future payouts.

As explained on the facing page, it is the charges to policyholders that are the most important determinant of long-term performance. So the projections assume that every company has the same investment performance. Variations in payouts are then a result

The first principle in John Chapman's rat- of differences in costs. These sums are shown

But Mr Chapman's ratings do not rely on a confusing array of numbers. Instead, they allocate a letter from A+, the best, down to C-, the worst. A company with an A+A+A+ rating is excellent at every stage. A rating of CAA means policyholders will be treated badly if they surrender or transfer early, but well if the policy is kept to maturity. The letters are allocated by calculating how much a company deviates up or down from the midpoint of all the companies in the survey.

The top companies in each category in the main and summary tables are those where good future projections are matched by past performance. In the rest of each table, the rankings are based on the companies' projections of future charges. In addition to pensions, the same rating system can be applied to a variety of other life insurance products.

including mortgages and savings policies.

There are ways in which companies can get round the embarrassment of having to admit high charges. These will be discussed next week.

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_ittle value but still big sellers

Armies of salespeople do the trick

machinations of the insurance industry might assume that life companies charging the most for the policies they sell are also the ones with the worst business figures. In fact, logic is turned on its head.

The most recent survey by Money Management, a spe-cialist magazine, shows that Prudential, which consistently scores among the poorest performers, grabbed £446m of new premium income in 1995, more than any other insurer. Yet it has an average CCC rating across its products.

Allied Dunbar also came within the top 10 for new premium income, as did Sun Life and Legal & General, Barclays Life, not noted for its low charges, took £89.8m, placing it in the top 20, pipping NatWest, Black Horse Abbey National, Midland and TSB, all of which still vacuumed up large amounts of policyholders' money.

What marks most of these companies out is not their competitiveness but one asset which allows them to transcend such minor questions - a large salesforce. In most cases, if an insurer has a small army pounding the streets and selling policies, it can remain relatively insulated from the need to offer competitive products. Prudential, for example, has a 7,000-strong salesforce which notched up 64 per cent of its

nyone not versed in the are divided across different types of policies. The Pru sold only 29 per cent of its regular-premium pensions through independent financial advisers, who tend to scrutinise the value of these policies. The rest was sold by

its own salespeople.

A handful of companies popular among independent financial advisers, such as Scottish Amicable, Standard Life and Norwich Union, also scored well in the premium income league.

While some of the companies picked by IFAs, notably Norwich Union and Standard Life, are in the top five for their charges, others are not. This reveals an uncomfortable truth about advisers: sometimes they may be affected more by commissions paid or the bells and whistles on a policy than whether it is good value

One notable exception to all this is Equitable Life, a company that sells almost exclusively through its salesforce. The excellent value of its products ensured that it came second in terms of new income in

1995, just behind the Pru. However, much of its premium income came from the large company pension funds it manages. Which leads to the final question: if its charges are so good why is it that the company's products are not sold by IFAs? Because it refuses to pay them commission, thus guaranteeing that hardly any will recom-Also instructive is how sales mend its products.

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A pound to a penny, coins are collectable

Numismatists are making a comeback, says John Andrew

oin collecting is making a come-back after a decade in the wilder-ness. "The interest in coin collecting has never been as great since the late 1960s and carly 1970s," according to Mark Rasmussen of Spink, the coin

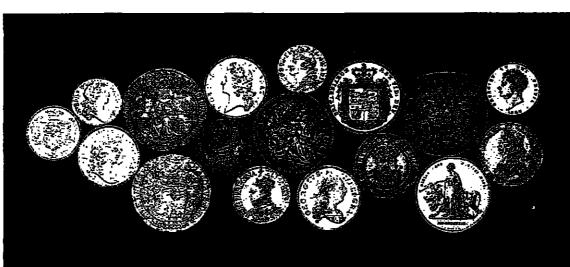
The heyday for coin collecting was the lead-up to decimalisation in 1971 until the mid-1970s. Collecting coinage from change to form date-runs of denominations which were soon to vanish almost became a national occupation. Many of these "casual" date collectors became numismatists proper and began to form collections of historical coins, only to stop collecting in the Eighties.

It was not because the coins themselves lost their appeal, but because they became too expensive to collect. The 1970s was a decade of rampant inflation and it became fashionable to put money into collectables as savings accounts did

not pay a real return. The sharpest rise in prices for British historical coins occurred in 1973-1974 when the stock market was collapsing. Although the coin market paused for breath in the first few months of 1974, it then started on a steady upward climb. Five years later prices for English coins on average had increased 150

per cent. In the late 1970s there was a further price boom caused by two inter-related factors. There was a great deal of investment buying in the States where, until the Reagan administration stopped the concession in 1980, buyers could invest in collectibles via retirement plans and receive tax relief on

Even before the purchase of coins for pension funds had stopped, there was the great bullion boom of 1979-1980. On 18 January 1980 silver peaked at \$52.50 and gold at \$835 an ounce. Many coin dealers trude in bullion as an adjunct to their main businesses. The profits they were generating from this activity were substantial. As the coin market was zyant, the money was channelled into their coin dealing operations. The price for US historical coins rose so sharply and suddenly that



Affordable as well as collectable: a selection of rare and choice British coins from the dealers Spink

European coins looked extremely cheap

by comparison. American coin dealers crossed the Atlantic and invaded the London and continental auction houses. As money was no object, prices for material boomed even further. No wonder at that period, one prominent member of the London coin trade commented, There are no longer any coin collectors, just investors.

Inevitably the bubble burst, in the first half of 1983, and prices fell. Those who had purchased coins as an investment were disillusioned, while many genuine numismatists had long since stopped making additions to their collections as the specimens they sought were financially out of their grasp.

Even now prices are well below peak levels. In both 1965 and 1966 Mr B purchased two examples of a gold Cromwell broad, or pound piece, at £325 and £350. The pieces, which were both in mint condition, were gifts for his two grandchildren. They were auctioned in February 1982 for £8,200 and £9,200. Today they would be likely to sell for £6,000 each.

In recent years the market for British

levels of the mid-1970s. Given inflation over the past 20 years, coins are more affordable now than in the past. This factor, linked with greater disposable incomes, is undoubtedly the main reason why the collectors of the 1960s are returning to the pastime that gave them so much enjoyment in the past.

Although great rarities can cost thousands, for every expensive coin, hundreds of thousands can be purchased for modest sums. Contrary to popular opinion, a coin's value is not influenced by age. A reasonable example of a Roman or medieval coin can be purchased for a few pounds.

The most important determinant of value is a coin's condition, which ranges from mint state to poor. An uncirculated 1887 silver crown bearing the Jubilee portrait of Queen Victoria, would sell for around £60. However, one with considerable signs of wear on its raised surfaces would be worth only £10, while one in poor state would be worf 7£2-£3. Incidentally, never clean a coin as this slashes its value.

The future for coin collecting looks good and prices will undoubtedly rise. coins has been stable, with prices on Britain's adoption of a single European

average being at or marginally above the currency would generate considerable new collector demand. However, there is one thing which has been learnt from the past - coins are not an investment. When the financial aspect outweighs the interest in coins for their own sake, that is when the problems will begin again. Coins are a fascinating subject in their own right, for every coin tells a story and a nation's coinage tells its history.

> Coinex '96 is organised by the British Numismatic Trade Association and takes place today at the London Marriott Hotel. Duke Street, Grosvenor Square, London WI. It is open from 9.30am to 5pm admission £2. There will be 68 exhibitors from around the world. Free valuations are offered. For a complete list of BNTA members telephone 0181-398

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jonathan davis investments

That is the outlook for the world stock markets now that both Wall Street and the London market have passed their latest numerical hurdles - 6000 on the Dow Jones and 4000 on the Footsie index? The numbers, though nice round figures, have no significance in economic terms. But they do provide a good moment to stop and take stock of where the balance of argument between bulls and bears now lies.

As it happens, the direction of the markets was the subject of a whole day conference last week by the strategists at James Capel, one of the City's best surviving research-led broking houses. Even allowing for the fact that brokers are paid to be optimistic, they put forward a lot of good arguments to justify why they remain fundamentally optimistic about the current level of the markets.

Canels have said all along this year that they expect the main stock markets to keep powering ahead and events so far have more than borne them out. despite much scepticism from their rivals along the way. Their forecast is for the London market to rise a further 10 per cent over the next year, despite the inevitable imminence of political worries ahead of the next election. This is how they make their case.

Wall Street may be overvalued if you look only in absolute terms at the main valuation measures such as dividend yield and price-earnings ratio. But once you adjust for the secular decline in long-term interest rates, and for the impact of the business cycle, it becomes much easier to explain, Put another way, American companies have for most of the last 15 years consistently been earning returns on their investment which are comfortably ahead of their cost of capital.

This was not the case for almost the entire period between 1972 and 1982, and again, more briefly, in the 1990-92 recession. The implication is that the dream ticket combination of rising earnings and falling interest rates may still have some way to run, though even Capels concede that we must now be approaching the end of the current bull phase of the stock market cycle.

The picture in the UK is, if anything,

more positive, according to Capels. It is not just that the UK stock market tends to lag Wall Street, though it has fallen much further behind the American market in relative terms than the historical averages suggest. More important is that British industry too has been undergoing a positive renaissance. Unlike previous recoveries, when most of the profit gains have been driven by higher prices rather than by efficiency gains, this time both profit margins and return on capital have benefited from direct management action. In a low inflation environment, managers have taken full advantage of their new freedom to manage.

As a result, profits have been rising almost twice as fast as the economy as a whole - 12 per cent against 6 per cent in nominal terms last year, and a probable 16 per cent against 5 per cent this year. According to Robert Buckland, the UK strategist at Canels, investors who look solely at overall market valuation measures and macro-economic figures are in danger of missing out on what is taking place inside the boardrooms of UK plc. While the overall rate of earnings growth at UK quoted companies may now be slowing down, the gains in real and relative terms continue to be impressive.

Comparing the return on shares with that on gilts and cash, there is no evidence that the market is anything like as overvalued as it was before the 1987 crash. The reason is that the quality of company earnings is higher while the interest rate outlook remains much more benign (though pressure on service sector inflation could

push interest rates up next year). Most surprising of all, perhaps, the Capels team is still refusing to write off the Tories' chances at the next election. They base this view partly on the fact that the feelgood factor is now starting to return with a vengeance. Consumer spending and the housing market are both reviving, as the Chancellor clearly intends, and consumer confidence, as measured by the polls, is actually above its long-run trend. The Government's problem is that it is not getting the political credit for the economic revival which it would have done if the traditional relationship between economic well-being and the polls had not broken down so drastically in the last four years.

The ERM crisis and the Blair phenomenon are the two most important ingredients in this reversal of fortune. But even here not all is lost. The most recent polls show a sudden narrowing of the Labour party's lead over the Government on two key measures: which party is credited with the greater ability to manage the economy, and which is considered likely to take the most favourable line on tax. The polling gap, conclude Capels certain to narrow over the next few months. Their view is that the next election is far from being lost. If so, that prospect will help the market to overcome its traditional prepolling jitters.

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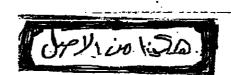
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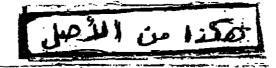
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So what about those who are allowed to call themselves independent financial advisers? Consider this fact; most IFA's earn their living from commission from the products they sell. Yet some of the best investments are run by firms which pay no commission. How likely do you think it is they'll be on your IFA's shortlist of recommended investments if there's a commission-paying firm offering a remotely similar product?

But ... let's face it ... most people find loday's world of personal finances too icated - and too baffling. In short. they're stuck. They are successful in many other respects. But when it comes to investing and money manager they have no real plan. All because there's been no simple way to get started. That is, until mov ...

IF YOU'D LIKE TO RETIRE WITH A MILLION -START TAKING YOUR OWN ADVICE.

Most of them do more poorly than the Stockmarket as a whole. The only certainty about letting "At last it is possible for a normal human that you'll let them help themselves to a chunk of it IN PACT the widely-accepted Random Walk theory says that you will beat the pros at picking shares by simply blindfolding yourself and sticking a pin in the share

MD IF YOUR MIND clamps shut

nillion, consider this: If you add

at the mere mention of the word

up your lifetime carnings - past and

certainly carn a fortune in your lifetime It could add up to a million pounds - or

me - you will see that you will almos

The trouble is, like most people you'll

Of course, what you could be doing is taking this fortune and turning some of it into another fortune - the one you

But you'll probably say you've been too busy to ettend to this yourself ... or perhaps managing money today just seems too complicated ...

Maybe you think you should entrust your money to an expert. If you do, you may be disappointed. The shocking truth is many professional fund managers'

are not much good at what they do.

table in your newspaper. Incredible, but true.

Look at unit trusts. The vast majority

of them underperform the Stockmarket

in general over time. They would have

actually lost you money compared to

buying shares at random!
So the question is: Why pay fat

commissions and "management fees" to have a so-called professional manage

financial adviser - someone who il give you sound and impartial advice on what:

best to do with your hard-carned money.

onlie hard.

Well, you're going to have to look

Firstly, most financial advisers area?

independent. They're not even allowed to call themselves that. That's because

they're employed by the big linancial fund managers to sell their products, and

their products alone. They're really just

What about seeking advice from 2

earn it - and spend it.

want to end up with.

being to learn the ins-and-outs of moneymanagement and investing without all sorts of pompous and confusing technical twaddle ... The Successful Personal Investing programme from IRS is like a great breath of fresh air." Dougles Molitt, TV and Radio Financial Commentator

SUCCESSFUL PERSONAL INVESTING (SPI) is the much acclaimed, up-to-thee, "bands-on". self-instruction course in investing and money management that you follow at home ... at your own pace ... with no pressure. In simple imaginge it outlines step-by-step how to build your own financial

dence ... and how to take the million or so you'll probably earn in your lifetime and get started on building the million you want to end up with ... and all without depending on some "expert" ... and without paying for advice that may not be truly independent. THE SPI COURSE starts with the basics and then goes on to the "tricks of the trade" - the simple, tried and true

techniques that enable you to protect and then pyramid profits to bulki wealth

"uncover" up to an extra £2,000 a year to invest - money you probably didn't even know you had.

Second - you'll be surprised at how easy it is to learn how to evaluate pension schemes ... glits ... shares ... Personal Equity Plans... Enterprise investment Schemes...property invest-ments...simple strategies that can slash pour tax bill...in fact, all the important areas of investing and money

Third - And maybe most rewarding you'll learn in detail about a number of crafty but simple behind-the-scenes mes that you don't usually get to find out about at all. The kind that can often boost your returns 20, 30, even 50 per cent more - sometimes just in months

FOR EXAMPLE, a little technique called a "straddle", lets you bet that the

Stockmarket will go up - and at the same time bet that it will go down believe it or not, it is perfectly possible to make a profit whether it goes up or goes down! Or how you can use your pension

płan to turo £760 into £1000 overnighi or more if you're a higher rate taxpayer. Of course there's a good deal more. But as you can see Successful Personal Investing is definitely not just some collection of 'host tips' or busing technical

by-step. like a simple recipe. So you take just those steps that are right for your own circumstances.

BEAR DI MIND TOO, that the publisher

Always everything is spelled out step-

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you can be absolutely sure that what you learn will be for no one's benefit but yours. Lel's face it - most people spend more time planning a fortnight's holiday than learning how to manipulate

Surprisingly, SPI takes only a couple of hours of your time a month. There is no burning of the midnight

True, money isn't everything. But it does help. SPI shows you how to start on the way towards having that million - and being able to tell yourself that you're a naire". So, before your mind clamms shut over that word again...why not at least take the opportunity to see for yourself? You can now get to look over the first two lessons with no obligation for 10 days just by posting the coupon I is yours to keep -FREE!

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Mobile art with a minimal message

on my way to the office entrants displayed just such a sign. I on my way to the office the other day. I saw a car bumper sticker that made me laugh. It wasn't a great big belly laugh, more of a quiet chuckle. But it reminded me the sign. "Because my dog means more to me than that these days the subtle art more to me than of bumper sticker humour - anything." like clever graffiti - is slowly being lost. (OK, if you must ribly sorry for him. know, the bumper sticker said: "A friend in need is a pain in the arse" - which maybe says as much about my generosity to friends as it does about my sense of humour.)

The funniest car stickers these days don't actually worth more than show dogs, mean to be funny at all. They're funny because they're naff. Does anybody really take seriously a car sticker which are often driven badly, as presays Warning. Show Dogs in occupied dads or mums turn Transit"? What exactly are you being warned of? Might one of the show dogs jump out of the car and savage the out of the car and savage the driver of the car following? Do the show dogs affect the up the puke. driver of the car, as they slobber all over him or her? Or do these pedigree hound owners expect us to take special care - as with dog lovers - expect with our driving because their special courtesy because their car carries show dogs, not

people? correct one. To confirm this, I (Which reminds me of my noted a few years ago, when I favourite sticker on a motorworked near Earl's Court, that an amazing number of Crufts a Volvo.")

Road Rivals

tibly sorry for him. But I still thought

the sticker funny. often not much better. "Warning. Baby On Board" is another one of my favourites. While babies are indubitably why precisely do cars carrying them need to display warnfrom the hapless driver to mop

No, wrong again. I am reliably informed that most drivers who display such warnings cars are carrying babies. Again Volvo estate owners seem I am reliably told that in fact especially keen on such the latter explanation is the bumper sticker humour.



windscreen art in the late-Eighties. as many people got obsessed by tailgaters. Using them was stupid. To start

with, you could

only read them by getting too close. Mind you, new parents are Besides, whenever you exhort people not to do something, they do it. Van drivers, as always, are the worst. You used to regularly see Transit vans tailgating Keep Your Distancers, and you could visibly see how much pleasure the Transit yob was getting by his intimidation of the poor, timid

> The funniest car stickers of all used to be in Australia, where I was brought up. The Aussies are not renowned for their subtlety: they call a spade

a bloody big shovel. When I was a kid learning to drive in the mid-Seventies, gave the game away.) the favoured transport of young and rebellious men were panel vans. In essence, ish colours, luxuriously trimmed and boasting big V8 engines. Their like has never been seen in Britain.

Few things used to frighten teenage daughters more than Be Inside."

"Keep your Dis- the sight of a boyfriend headtance!" was one of ing up the driveway in a panel the most popular van. This is not surprising pieces of rear- Their nickname was "fvan. This is not surprising trucks". Everybody called them that. And for good rea-

Panel vans usually had plushly trimmed rear cargo areas, often with double mattresses and hi-fi. They often travelled nose-down, partly to give them an aggressive, predatory stance. Also, at a drive-in movie, it helped the view, as Bruce and Sheila lay prostrate watching the film through the open tailgate, often imitating the sex scenes (I'm not joking).

Panel vans had another advantage when going to the drive-in movies. If Sheila's parents had locked her in the bedroom that night, Bruce could always fit about eight mates in the back. If Bruce was lucky, they'd get in without paying. (Although the groaning, heaving rear suspension at the entrance gates sometimes

Panel vans used to carry many stickers, it was part of the automotive jewellery of these are big vans painted gar- these ludicrous vehicles. along with big alloy wheels, wide tyres and extra chromework. But there was one sticker which stood out from the rest. It said: "Don't the parents of Australian Laugh. Your Daughter Might



iche models are all the rage in the motor industry, and everybody has to be seen to be making one. Frankly, it's all getting a bit out of hand. For S Ka however (pronounced, er, 'car') stands up reasonably well as a niche model. Statisting at around £7,400, it's the smallest Ford and is billed as a fun machine which will also tolerate serious long-distance use. The styling out from the crowd amongst which the Ka is meant to be easier to park.

In truth, though, it is not is most impressive. The engine, much smaller than a Fiesta, though its stumpy rear and long wheelbase make it a little easier to manoeuvre. No, the Ka is not the revolution Ford would have us believe. What we have here is simply an absolutely corking little car.

The styling is perhaps at its best on the inside, all bold curves and thoughtful details. The facia, reminiscent of a Fifties wireless, drips down in front of you like a water-filled balloon. Inside it's airy, tolerably roomy in the back and altogether a cheerful place to be. Headroom is particularly good, which is perhaps not surprising given the swollen bulge that forms the roof.

THE TOP

CHOICE

FOR CAR

ROOF

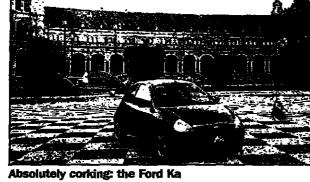
BOXES

&

THULE

ROOF

BAR



It is on the move that the Ka unlike the Mini, it is perfectly

tolerable on a long drive. a smoother, sweeter reworking of the old 60bhp 1.3-litre Fiesta engine, is only just pow-erful enough, especially as the gearing is quite long. The steering, though, is something else. Only the power-assisted Ka2 was available at launch but I may as well recommend But Ford's claim that the Ka

motoring

it anyway because, well, it seems perfect. It turns crisply and without kickback, even on the rutted roads where I drove. The sort of wallowing in corners often found in small, tall cars simply isn't there.

A little like the Mini (Ford will love that analogy, as it is trying hard to turn the Ka into an icon) there is a fantastic im-

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Car Accessories

My only significant gripe is that Ford didn't use the 1.25litre engine found in the new Fiesta. (It would probably have made the Ka a little too expensive.) I said this was a corking little car; it may well be the

is a new breed of ultra-small car looks pretty unconvincing if one is parked next to Fiat's most diminutive offering. The Cinquecento is smaller than the Ka in every dimension except height.

Fiat has a heritage of building absurdly small cars, starting with the original Cinquecento. But the new model's mediacy to its responses but, name is a mere nod to its 500cc it's great fun to drive.

ancestor: in standard form the modern descendant boasts a full 900cc and 41 bhp; the 'Sporting' 1100cc and 55bhp.

It's absolutely hilarious, but not in the same way as the Ford. The Ka entertains by being so composed, the Sporting because it is eager and slightly frenzied. The Fiat's acceleration times are comparable to the Ford's, which makes it a slow car by realworld standards. But the sensation of speed is positively palpable, largely due to the free-spinning, raspy and ightly demented engine.

Dynamically, the Fiat does not ride as smoothly, is less quiet, and, despite the stiffened suspension, rolls more than the Ford. But this is the tongue-in-cheek version of a much cheaper, genuinely utilitarian car: as satire, it works wonderfully. And it really is a size below what we'd normally consider small.

My own view is that there is an absolute size beyond which shrinking the car leads only to compromises. The Ka exists at that border. It still feels like a full-size machine and it is built like one; it's not dirt cheap but there's nothing else like it for the money; it looks great and

Spendthrift in Canterbury

A shopping tour of the cathedral city

fortnightly series of shopping city

Your first view of Canterbury, if you arrive by train, may seem a little depressing: the station sits next to a dual carriageway choked with traffic, and what little you can see of the city looks gloomy

and unattractive. And yet, after London, Canterbury is currently the most visited city in the country: it's probably been on every tourist's hit-list since Chaucer's infamous day trippers pitched up. Although remarkably unspoilt, Canterbury feels plastic and the majority of the shops are there to serve the tourist trade. The high street, which is closed to traffic, must be one of the prettiest in the country and the views down the side streets are definitely picture postcard material, but this only emphasises the city's Disney-esque ambience. Several American tourists were heard to gasp "quaint" and "cute" with fevered awe as they trailed along St

Margaret's street and into Mercery Lane. The overwhelming impression is of a village not a city, so it is a surprise to stum-

in the name of heritage. C&A, Clarks, Principles, Mothercare, Miss Selfridge and Topshop are all there too, but these highstreet heavies have been corralled in creetly on the main thoroughfares, out of the High Street.

the range of the tourist camera. Canterbury is perfect for the shopper with a consience: take a quick tour of the cathedral, or better still organise your trip to coincide with the Canterbury Festival, and you can convince yourself that the true purpose of your visit was cultural, and the shopping merely incidental.

department stores

Don't waste time on shops you can visit in any other city, it's far better to have a quick wander round the local one-offs.

46-47 High Street (01227-456 755) department store that failed to keep up of toys to occupy grizzling children.

oday sees the start of Canterbury's ble across Debenhams, and Boots skulktwo week festival of the arts, making next to the Cathedral precinct. They ing it the perfect place to start our are, however, almost unrecognisable having been denied their corporate colours itself to be the last word in "Luxury hited wardrobes", and leather sofas which look like enormous cowpats. The undulating floors in the basement give the place a curious charm, but the prolifershopping centres like Longmarket and ation of nick-nacks and gawdy gee jaws The Marlow Arcade which crouch dis-will soon drive you out to the safety of

clothes

In addition to the standard highstreet clothing outlets there are two houtiques selling upmarket labels, and plenty of good secondhand shops stuffed with coverable leftovers from the 50s, 60s and 70s.

Entrada

22 Sun Street (01227-763 736) This shop sells a good selection of Ghost, In Wear and Sara Sturgeon, A hargain basket in the corner contained a couple of slip dresses in Prada-esque fabries for £22, and a brown silk shirt by Every City has its 'Nasons' - the local In Wear for £17. There is also a basket



checkout theodore's bear emporium

What is it? Theodore's Bear Emporium, is a tiny whitewashed corner shop which nestles next to Mortlake station, in south west London. Built as Queen Victoria's waiting room, the building is now filled with teddy bears and all things teddy-related. Next Monday owners and bear fanatics, Karl and Sheila Gibbons will be celebrating the 75th birthday of one of the most famous teddies of them all - Winnie the Pooh.

Stock: Mainly collector's teddies - such as those by Steiff, and one-off artist-designed bears like the ones made by, German arist Marie Robischon. You'll find something in every conceivable colour, size and theme: pirate bears, cheeky lacy bears and Ascot-dressed teddies.

Who shops there: This is a popular haunt with serious collectors. Theodore's Bear Emporium has cultivated a reputation for being the Hard Rock cafe of the teddy bear fraternity - anyone with a serious committment to teddy bears will visit at least once.

Buy of the year: Limited edition of Pooh's Tree House. Daintily illustated boxed sets of Pooh and his forest friends Piglet; Tigger, Eeyore; Kanga and Roo, £199 a set.

Worst buys: The mass-produced souvenir bears - you would probably get them free with something anyway.

Don't miss: Thrice-yearly teddy bear parties held for regular customers. And make sure you sign-up for your copy of the shop's quarterly The Growler which lists the dates of all the international teddy bear conventions.

> Theodore's Bear Emporium The Old Waiting Room, Sheen Lane, London SW14. Tel: 0181-876 2996. Open Tues-Sat I cam-5pm

good thing

Children's drawings on pillowcases, from £36.50

Most parents have a small selection of their offsping's first art works Selotaped to the fridge, stuck on the mantlepiece or perhaps even framed. Grandparents and God parents often have to make do with photocopies. Not any more. The Monogrammed Linen Shop's embroiderers can be commissioned to reproduce your child's efforts on pillowcases, towels and handkerchiefs. The

service, complete with a personalised dedication starts at £36.50, and the price varies according to the complexity of the design. The process takes about six to eight weeks, so now is the time to start thinking about Christmas orders.

The Monogrammed Linen Shop, call 0171-589 4033

mad thing

Chocolate pints, 99p, Tesco

Basics first: these chocolates are shaped like pints of beer - complete with a bead of white chocolate. Good chocolate is nice whatever its shape. But the saucy postcard packaging is another matter. It features a ludicrous pub scene of cleavage and gawping. The bloke is so beside himself,



he can't touch his drink - which is presumably why Tesco have made these for him. Wey-hey, new-ladism on the supermarket shelf.

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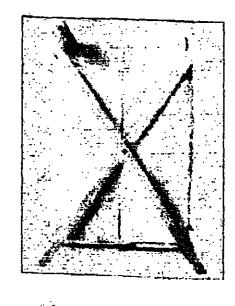
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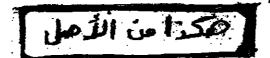
sure thing

Tork laundry bag, £14

Wicker laundry baskets snag your tights, fur up with dust and can't be cleaned. Not so this smart, simple and functional laundry bag from Ikea. The unfinished beech frame supports a detachable canvas sack which can be thrown in the wash along with your dirty clothes. John Lewis stocks a variation on this theme and Habitat have something very similar in their current catalogue, only it's twice the Drice.

For your nearest Ikea, call 0181-208 5600







Sarah Smith

32 Palace Street (01227-769 315) Stock is chosen for its wearability, the emphasis being on understated chic. Along with the big names like Cerruti and John Rocha, there are a number of lesser knowns such as two French labels, Tehen and Philippe Adec, and beautiful knitwear by young Scottish designer, Sara Duncan. There is also a good Marina Rinaldi range which goes up to

17 Clothing Co 46 Palace Street (01227-781 720) Very well priced second hand clothes in good nick. Chinese dresses, £38-£78, leopard skin coats, £38 and bright feather boas, £15. Masses of suede jackets and funky 70s stripey skinny rib tops. Plenty of mirrors so you can shimmy into whtever takes your fancy without having to wait for a changing room.

25 Palace Street (01227-787 899) Fantastic selection of army surplus gear, khaki T-shirts with white stars £5.99, old army boots start at around £25 and faded boiler suits £6.00. Green, standard issue army shirts start at £2.99 and trousers from £11.99. A full guardsman's uniform £75 and Second World War leather jerkins with blanket linings are a bargain at £29.99 as long as you're built like a house, enormous seemed to be the only size available.

Phase Eight Clearance Shop 11 Butchery Lane (01227-786 581) Excellent reductions on last season's leftovers, seconds and returned stock. Chunky knitted sweaters in burnt orange and navy, with tiny, easily repaired faults are a snip at £20, but will set you back £39.99 if you buy them from other Phase Eight stores. There is always a good selection of skirts, dresses, jackets and suits whatever the season.

antiques

You will find the highest concentration of antique shops along Palace Street, known locally as the King's Mile, because its mix of up-market clothes shops and antique shops is reminiscent of London's King's Road. The tourist office on St Margaret's Street has an Antiques Trail leaflet which will guide you there.

17 Palace Street, (01227-464 587) This is the largest of Canterbury's antique shops and has the most spectacular premises: the main hall complete with pil-grims gallery dates back to the 14th-century and sits on a Norman undercroft which was built in 1080; the front building is, in manager Bill Horn's words "quite a modern addition" having only gone up in 1620. Mr Horn is only too pleased to tell visitors about the shop's rich history: rumour has it that the four knights who killed Thomas a Beckett slept here on December 27th 1170, the night before the murder. Bloody tales aside, Conquest House has a good selection of Georgian and Victorian furniture and Victorian furniture.

Saracen's Lantern

9 The Borough, (01227-451 968) Although not included on the Antiques trail, Saracen's Lantern is worth a visit. They currently have a good selection of Victorian ink wells, £10-£180 and lots of corkscrews, £8-£58. Glass-fronted cabinets and shelves are laden with china, glass, small silverware, Sheffield plate, tea caddies and curios from the mid 19th-century through to the 1930s. A tiny back, room is packed with books.

bookshops

"People laughed when I offered to explain

how to conquer 9 out of 10 illnesses

It may sound too good to be true - but it is true! There is a doctor-approved secret which will show you how you can, for the rest of your life, easily conquer 9 out of 10 illnesses without spending

And you can get better without spending time and money or doctors, specialists, acupur hypnotherapists or pills from the chemist - and without exposing yourself to hezard uncomfortable side effects.

Most illnesses can be dealt with without pills or medicines and without orthodox or alternative

We have just published a new edition of "Bodypower" - the sensational book by by Dr Vernon Coleman which hit the Sunday Times bestseller list and the Bookseller chart too. This faccinating

book, reprinted 14 times in the UK and sold in jast about every country in the world, shows

Still not convinced? .. read on for more evidence

If you think our claims for Bodypower are difficult to believe read what the some of the many reviewers had to say:

"... a self help manual for maintaining or regaining health using your own resources. Vernou Coleman prese evidence with clarity and evangelical fervour." - (The Good Book Gaide)

"There are plenty of good books on healthcure ... I'd recommend Bodypower" - (Woman's Own)

"One of the most sensible treatises on personal survival that has ever been published. It sets out, in the simplest language an enormous amount of knowledge in the easiest possible way" - (Yorkshire Evening Post)
"Don't miss it! Dr Coleman's theories could change your life ... the revolutionary way to look better and feel younger'
(Sunday Mirror)

"Arm yourself with a copy of Bodypower - it could make stress a thing of the past" - (Woman's World)
"Despite my own medical training and incovledge of nature's devices, Dr Coleman made me think again" (BBC World Service)

"marvellously succinct ... refreshingly sensible" - (The Spectator)

Vernon Coleman is the UK's leading medical author and campaigning journalist. He has a string of bestsellers to his

name and his books are sold in their millions around the world. He account the world's medical journals and libraries to bring you invaluable information that could dramatically improve the quality of your life. Here are extracts from just a few of the many thousands of readers' letters sent to this office:

"It is lovely to have someone who cares about people as you do. You tell us such a lot of things that we are afraid to ask-our own doctors" - (E.C.)
"I greatly admire you no nonserve approach to things and your acting as champion of the people" - (L.A.)

I admire your forthright and refreshingly honest way of expressing your views and opinions ... bless you for being a light in the estanal darkness" - (B.O.)

If only more people in the medical profession were like you it would be a much nicer world" - (G.W.)

"A godsend" (Daily Telegraph)

We are convinced that Bodypower will change your life and we know that you will not want to part with your copy of this invaluable book. But our guarantee of satisfaction (see below) means that you have nothing to lose and everything to gain. If you want to know the secret of how to conquer 9 out of 10 illnesses without seeing a doctor or

everyming to gam. If you want to know the sector of now to complete your of the interests without seeing a foctor of spending any money on medical treatments then send your cheque/PO for £9.95 (made payable to Publishing House) to: Sales Office IN45, Publishing House, Trinity Place, Barustaple, Devon EX32 9HJ, UK. To pay by credit card please telephone 01271 328892 Monday - Friday 8.30 - 5.30. We look forward to hearing from you.

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All our books come with a rock-solid, money-back guarantee which means you can order without risk. If you are unhappy

without money or doctors."

exactly how 9 out of 10 illnesses can be conquered without seeing a doctor.

The Chaucer Bookshop 6 Beer Cart Lane (01227-453 912) Like all good second-hand book shops, this is browser-friendly. You get a warm

welcome as you come in and are then left to trawl the shelves at your leisure. A good selection of local history books.

Canterbury Bookbinders

66 Northgate (01227-452 371)
The walls of this tiny shop are covered with old bookplates, rescued from the flyleafs and covers of books brought in for re-binding and restoration work. The workshops, where books and magazines are being bound, can be spied through an archway at the back. Students come here to have their theses and dissertations bound.

accessories & gifts

Quite how the good citizens of Canterbury manage to sustain even one shop devoted to highly scented, crudely carved novelty candles is a mystery; yet this mini city boasts a candle emporium on almost every corner.

Claremont & May 2 Palace Street (01227-764 507) This is the place to go if you must indulge in floating candles. Here you can buy bags of glass beads, large glass bowls and all manner of smelly, flower-shaped night-lights. They also stock loads of potpourripick and mix your own, £1.45 and £2.45.

The Bead Bazaar 13 Orange Street, (01227-458 080) Hidden at the bottom of Orange street, Julia Knowles reckons that not many local people are aware her shop's existence, although it has been doing brisk business for a little over a year. Customers buy beads for their own creations, while others select them for Julia to make up. Julia also offers a re-stringing service, a single string of knotted pearls will cost about £10.

Christina & Co

Medically

Approved

Also includes tips on how to stay slim for life - how to insprove your figure - how to break bad habits - how to relax and much mose!

20 Orange Street, (01227-765 301) Upstairs at Christina & Co it's always Christmas, trees are laden with decoragium, Germany and South Africa.

tions and shelves and tables display festive nick-nacks. Downstairs is a specialist gift shop aimed at the collectors' market. Here you can find limited edition teddy bears, the Little Souls range of porcelain collectors dolls from America (£150-£350), and the Lizzy High range of wooden dolls. Customers are Christmas addicts, people searching for Christening presents and collectors.

The Merchant Chandler

4-6 Orange Street (01227-762 644) Many of the customers appeared to be students buying up cheap and cheerful rag rugs (£9.99), bed spreads (£16.99) and cushions (£4.99), presumably to transform dull digs. The back of the shop is devoted to baskets in every conceivable shape and size and at the front there is a candle section in keeping with the local obsession.

food & drink

Canterbury Wholefoods
16 The Borough, 01227-472 288
A cheery brightly lit organic and vegetarian warehouse stocked with plenty to keep even meat eaters happy. A wide range rice includes Thai Scented (£1.98 per Kg) and Japanese (£2.50 per Kg). Loads of dried fruit and large sacks of nuts. Several shelves are devoted to fair trade goods and the fridge is filled with Cheatin' chicken and Veggie Pastrami.

Canterbury Draft Beer Shop 83 Northgate, 01227-472 288

Martyn Hillier's shrine to beer is the only place in South East Kent selling beer as you might drink it in the pub, draft, that is - straight from the barrel and into the bottle. A pint of Fullers ESB will cost a mere £1.49 from Hillier, and somewhere between £2.20 and £2.50 in a local pub. In addition to the two-five draft beers available, Hiller stocks around 200 different bottled beers from the UK, BelAdventurous non-beer drinkers should try a little something from one of the local vineyards: Staple St James £4.79 or

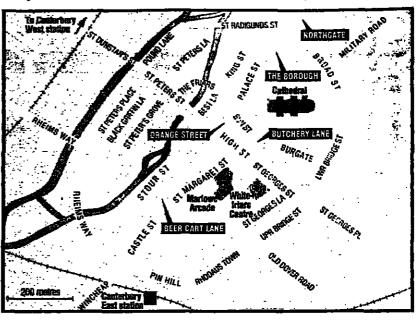
specialist shops

Culpepper Herbs and Spices St Margaret's Street (01227-451121) Culpepper, well known for its wide range of herbal remedies, bath oils and soaps, is also a good source of culinary herbs and spices: cinnamon sticks are 60p a bundle, and packets of nutmegs, 50p. Four different types of real vanilla extract - Indonesian, Tahitian, Mexican and Madagascan – are recent additions. Best buys for foodies are the fantastic curry kits which include a new ginger and honey sauce, and can be made to order.

On the aromatherapy front £18.50 wil buy you an aroma fan and two essential oils. Various oils are too expensive to have on display. Rose oil, for example, costs a cool £145 for 14ml. The price reflects the fact that you need 30 rose heads to make one drop of oil.

Palace Street, 01227-786 288 The air in this tiny tobacconist is heavy with unexpected scents; black cherry, cherry vanilla and Coffee caramel. These heady smells waft from a cabinet filled with jars of flavoured tobacco (£3.60 for 25g). Good selection of American cigarettes and some handmade pipes.

In two weeks Spendthrift hits Leicester



The Canterbury Festival Office: 01227-452853 Canterbury Tourist Office: 01227-455600

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money or seeing a doctor.

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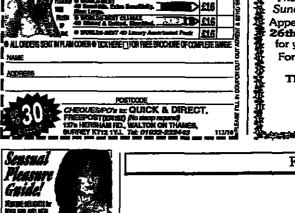
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Sunday 1996 Christmas Gift Guide. Appearing for 7 weekends from October 26th and 27th, we offer great incentives for you to advertise in both publications. For information on costs and deadlines please call: The Christmas Gift Guide Team on 0171 293 2344 0171 293 2323 or fax 0171 293 2505 *Source: NRS July 1995 - June 1996

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hats and pom-pom scarves. Chunky

cream and stone wool hat £34, scarf

seen without this season is

Animal print hat, £55, L K Bennett and scarf, Accessorize. If you really

Accessorize, these are also iavailable in leopard and zebra. LK Bennett.

0181-947 2038; Accessorize, 0171-313

Pet corner

Dog treats

hy do people have pets? The question has spawned many a psychology PhD, but question marks still hang over the habit. Why, for instance, do half the people who dogs put so much effort into trying to deny their very nature?

Dog people divide into two well-delineated

categories - those who have lost all understanding of hygiene or aesthetics and those who would own a walking, talking, living doll if they could buy one. The former cherish grease-stained sofas, hairs in the carpet and flecks of dried gravy on the kitchen floor, and exchange French kisses with the little darling. The other lot, well; a dog or a cat, however endearing its character quirks, is still at heart a ruffian that likes to spend time belly-down in mud and rolling in dead things. Why we pretend

otherwise is a mystery.

Still, it's great for trade. A pet, like a baby, opens up a whole new world of shopping. As the valley girl said, the only thing that distinguishes us from the apes is our ability to accessorise. The brotherhood of companies dedicated to meeting this desire grows by the year, and we hand over tens of millions of pounds in pursuit of the perfect place for an animal evolved for sleeping under a bush to lay its head.

One such is the Comfy Pet and People Company of Bradninch, Devon. Their "Waggers" mail-order

brochure, a fold-out of accourrements for the pampered pooch, is terrific: an education in how refined the needs of pet-owners have become. It features five different types of doggy-bed. Their original hollow-fibre cushion (£18.50-£43.50), first made by owner Carolyn Skinner six years ago, has been joined by a "snuggler" (£10-£16), an elasticated fleece which turns any box into a bed, a plethora of backet liners a contract the state of the st basker liners, a car boot-shaped duvet (£19-£30) and one on legs in case Lambkin is bothered by drafts. Oh, and there's also the tunnel (£25,50-£34,50), a mattress-and-duvet combo for Rambo to crawl into.

There's more. The presentation, and the greens, navys and tartans of the products, is suggestive of navys and tartans of the products, is suggestive of country living, though one gets the feeling that much of the appeal is to the twisted urban soul. There's a brilliant Dri-bag (£11.95-£27.95), a sewn-up towel into which you zip Rover when he's damp and stinky. Waterproof bed-liners protect the hollow-fibre "if your dog is wet, muddy, incontinent, in season or sick". We don't lock Bonzo in the garage these days. Some things — a flea collar made to look like a Sick." We don't lock Bonzo in the garage these days. Some things – a flea collar made to look like a Country and Western bandana (£4.50) – are just plain daft, and some are witty. Top fave is the catnip vet doll for chewing, clawing and beating up, though the joke will probably be lost on Tiddles.

Phone them on 01392 881285 if you fancy a waxed

cotton whippet coat to go with your Barbour. If you don't, you're probably happily rubbing Lassie down with the towel you'll be using later when you get out

Serena Mackesy

Six of the best hats and scarves





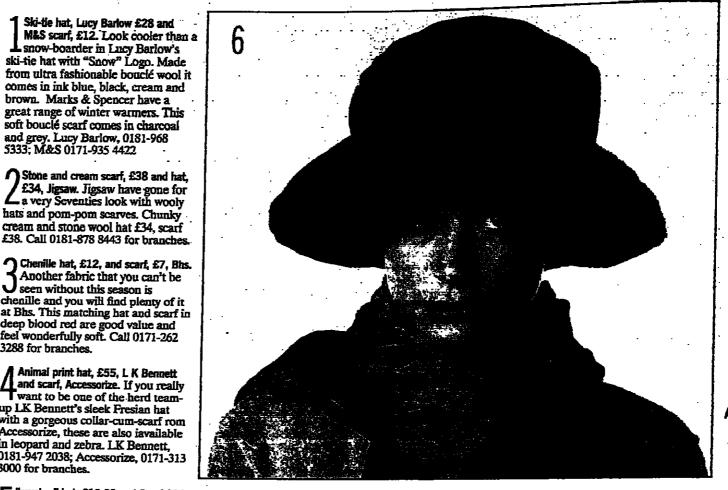
£38. Call 0181-878 8443 for branches. Chenille hat, £12, and scarf, £7, Bhs.

Another fabric that you can't be chenille and you will find plenty of it at Bhs. This matching hat and scarf in deep blood red are good value and feel wonderfully soft. Call 0171-262 3288 for branches. want to be one of the herd teamup LK Bennett's sleek Fresian hat with a gorgeous collar-cum-scarf rom

> 5 "crusher" hat, £19.99 and Scarf £24, Accessorize. Whatever you, or the weather does to it this chenille "crusher" hat will hold its shape. Double the chenille with a cosy woven scarf in matching beige. Accessorize, 0171-313 3000 for

Large, chocolate brown fur hat, £55, OLK Bennett, scarf, £24.99, Accessorize. Chocolate is the colour this season and this fur hat from L K Bennett, with its thick sumptuous fur and generous height, is the Black Forest gateau of warm winter hats. Combine this with one of Accessorize's velvet scarves. LK Bennett, 0181-947 2038.

> Stylist: Rose Hammick Photographs: Tony Buckingham







magazines

10 titles to choose from

If our great new listings guide hasn't tempted you to charge off to the cinema, gallop off to a gallery or tune in to the TV, then maybe we can entertain you with our great free magazine offer.

We've joined forces with COMAG Magazine Marketing to offer readers of The Independent and the Independent on Sunday up to two free magazines from the selection of 10 great titles shown below. Each day, we will be focusing on a different one to give you a flavour of what's on offer and to help you choose the titles to suit you. So to enjoy up to £7.25 worth of great free reading all you have to do is follow the instructions below.

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 Numbered tokens will be printed in The Independent and the Independent on Sunday each day from today until 21 October. Today we print Token 1.

Simply collect four of these, ensuring that they are all

differently numbered, and attach them to one of the application vouchers published in The Independent on 15, 19 and 21 October.

 Complete the application voucher indicating which magazine you would like and present it to your nearest

magazine retailer. · You may claim a second free magazine by collecting a second set of four differently numbered tokens and attaching them to a second application voucher. In the unlikely event that your chosen magazine is not available from your retailer, please be prepared to select an alternative title. The closing date for claiming your free magazine(s) is Thursday 31 October 1996.



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3. To quality for the offer, applicants must collect 4 differently numbered tokens and attach them to a completed application voucher.

4. If you have a Starter Token from Time Out it can be used as any numbered token, but only one Starter Token can be used to make up your token collection.

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vouchers printed in The Independent and Independent on Sunday are valid, Photocopies of tokens and application vouchers are not acceptable.

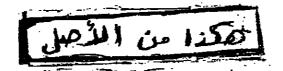
4wards 96

7. The offer is for one free magazine per correct application. The magazine here and listed on the application representing 100 publishers.

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behalf of the magazine publishers. COMAG, are the leading third party magmust be selected from those featured azine marketing company in the UK,





staying in

Bridge Alan Hiron

E-W game; dealer South North **∳**J863 ♥1098 ♦K 109 ♣J 10 9 West **♠**A5 **+**42 **⊘KQ** ♥AJ63 **♦**J65432 **Q7 4**642 **♣**A8753 South **◆**KQ1097-♥7542 **♦**A8 **♣**KQ

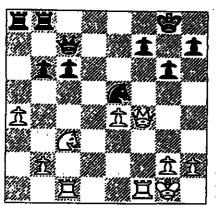
The idea of discarding a loser on a loser is familiar to most declarers. It is much more difficult to visualize the possibility of the same manoeuvre for the defenders and, perhaps unsurprisingly, it was missed

South opened One Spade. North raised to Two Spades and, when this came round to West, he rather timidly passed. It would have been perfectly reasonable (and successful!) to have contested with Three Diamonds but perhaps he had recently suffered a nasty accident or two through over-zealous protection.

West led the ♥K against Two Spades and when he commued with the ♥Q East overtook and cashed the jack on which West parted with a club. East now tried the effect of the ace and another club but now there was no way for the defenders to come to more than their five top winners.

The preamble above should have given you all the necessary clues. After seeing his partner discard ◆2 on his ♥J, East should have led a fourth round of hearts for West to throw another club - the loser on loser theme as advertised. Now West can win the first round of trumps with his ace and the defenders can come to a club ruff for their third and setting trick.

Chess William Hartston



Fifty years ago, international chess emerged from the shadow of the Second World War with a tournament at Groningen in the Netherlands. Mikhail Botvinnik took first place ahead of the former world champion Max Euwe, setting himself on course for the world championship which he won two vears later.

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of that great event, the Staunton Chess Club of Groningen, organisers of the 1946 tournament, invited all seven surviving players to a reunion. They also asked their guests how they would like to spend their time and, to a man, they replied: "Playing chess, of And that is how Vassily Smyslov, 75, Miguel Najdorf, 86, Arnold Denker, 82, Laszlo Szabo, 79, Carlos Guimard, 83, Martin Christoffel, 74, and Abe Yanofsky, 71, came last month the contest the oldest tournament in history - and oddly enough they finished in much the same order as they had fifty years ago, with Smyslov winning and

Najdorf second. Miguel Najdorf, the oldest of all the layers, brought off the neatest finish. From the diagram position, it is QWhite to play and win in two moves. If you cannot see it, you will meet the answer at the end of this game.

> White: Miguel Najdorf Black: Arnold Denker

1 d4 Nf6 13 Nc4 b5 14 cxb6 axb6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 Bg7 15 a4 Rfb8 4 e4 d6 16 Rac1 Bf8 5 Be2 0-0 17 f4 Bb6 6 Nf3 c6 18 fxe5 Bxe3+ 7 0-0 Bg4 19 Qxe3 Ng4 20 Of4 Ngxe5 21 Nxe5 Nxe5 8 Be3 Qc7 9 Nd2 Bxe2 10 Qxe2 e5 22 Nd5 Qd6 11 dxe5 dxe5 23 Rxc6 resigns

At the end, 23...Qxc6 loses to 24.Ne7+, while 23...Nxc6 just leaves the queen to be taken immediately.

Z V g o s i s the branger; togethe

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THE PROFESSIONAL PERSON'S INTRODUCTION AGENCY

Musie...

News guiz of the week

1. How was a girl of humble birth transformed - not totally successfully – into a fair lady, and what did a man named Higgins have to do with it?

2. What was originally valued at fourpence and sold for £150,000?

3. Which 90 minutes lasted three seconds?

Which shower scene (pictured on the right) is about to be interrupted and in which country is it taking

You may have missed ...

..what a week it's been for sex: Sex Italian style: Italian doctors have devised a battery-operated microchip to combat impotence. Housed in a box 2cm by 3cm, it is inserted into the scroturn. The smart chip stimulates nerves at the base of the penis to enable the wearer to attain an erection.

Sex Spanish style: The Spanish prison service has bought 1.7 million condoms at auction, to be distributed to inmates. four condoms a month. Prisoners are allowed one conjugal visit each month,

Sex Indonesian style: Officials on the island of Lombok, Indonesia, bave banned contraception to women whose husbands work overseas. "It's meant as a precaution so lonely housewives won't be tempted to do negative things while their husbands are away," a spokesman said.

Sex British style: A survey for She magazine revealed the following:

A third of all couples have not spent a whole weekend together in the past six months; 27 per cent of couples spend "much of their leisure time" having sex; 38 per cent of women would end the relationship if their partner was unfaithful: "Darling" is a more popular pet name than "badger", "pigeon" or "Batman".

Quiz of the Week answers 1. Sun editor Stuart Higgins falls for video hoax. 2. A Penny Black, 2d Blue and 1d Red on one rivelope sold for that sum at Christie's. 3. Scotland's societ walkover in Estonia.
4. German Telekom are refusing to supply phone boxes for use as shower cubicles.
5. i-d, ii-b, iii-a, iv-c. 6. (i)- Cindy Crawford (ii) The Duchess of York (iii) Norma Major.

Which men said the following.

(Match quotes to names.) (i) "When you are on your own you think a lot. And I don't like to think

a lot." (ii) "I have never said I don't want to be Prime Minister. (iii) "I am a peace-loving man, but I

always seem to have turbulent women in my life." (iv) "For one moment I felt like a faith healer. People were laying hands all over me"

a) Spike Milligan b) Peter Lilley c) Stephen Dorrell d) Paul Gascoigne

Competition puzzles

Perplexity

Vertical Angust roses protect Rein frog, worm, Ilama, eagle. poor lady.

The words in the above sentence conceal three one-word answers. To find the answers which have a common theme - you must group the six words into three pairs, then rearrange the letters within each pair.

Literacy

6. And which women were being

(i) "--- is so perfect she makes

strong men weak, weak men faint and

women don a pair of Vivella pyjamas

and go to bed with a packet of Hob-

(ii) "She's a complete irrelevance, of no importance whatsoever. Constitu-

tionally, she is completely and utterly

meaningless." (Ben Pimlott) (iii) "Given a choice between dinner

with ---- or 15 men, ---- won hands

referred to in these:

nobs" (Allison Pearson).

down." (John Major)

... and the five words above conceal the name of an author and his work - which might loosely be suggested by some of the words themselves. This how much further to the near-est foot (that's a 12-inch foot, rearrange all the letters to his right foot travelled than his obtain the writer and the title. left foot?

Numeracy

(Answers below)

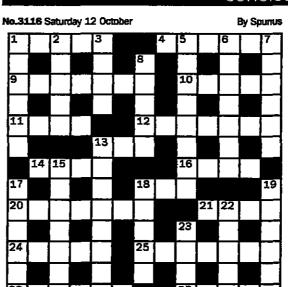
An athlete runs a mile anticlockwise round a perfectly circular track. If the paths taken by his two feet are six inches apart, and one lap of the track is exactly 440 yards, time all you have to do is not an anatomical foot), has

A prize of the new Chambers 21st Century Dictionary will be awarded to the first correct set of answers to these puzzles opened on 24 October. Entries to: Saturday Pastimes, the Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL.

26 September Perplexity answers: Presbyterian, Evangelical, Protes-tant. Winner: E. Spice (Bournemouth)

concise crossword

across



Moment (5) Reaping implement (6) Exact copy (7)

10 Playing area (5) 11 After deductions (4) 12 Chemical element (7)

13 Garden tool (3) 14 Reflected sound (4)

16 Means of recording (4) 18 Insect (3) 20 Distance runner (7)

21 Russian ruler (4) 24 Cuban dance (5) 25 Illiness (7)

26 Join armed forces (6) 27 Waist measurement (5)

13 Vacations (8)

15 Type of sweet (7) 17 Frontal attack (6) 18 Staff of life (5)

Royal seat (6)

Way out (4)

Rude (8)

Sauce (7)

Contribution (5)

Urge earnestly (6) Intermission (5)

19 Miserable person (6) 22 Use bad language (5)

23 Wooden shoe (4)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:

ACROSS: 7 Pollen, 8 Easier (Polynesia), 10 Rurally, 11 Ounce, 12 Left, 13 Dowry, 17 Lithe, 18 Pier, 22 Ridge, 23 Neptune, 24 Pigsty, 25 Flagon, DOWN: 1 Sparkle, 2 Clarify, 3 Keble, 4 Masonry, 5 Kilns, 6 Greek, 9 Xylophone, 14 Liberty, 15 Liturgy, 16 Orleans, 19 Graph, 20 Adage, 21 Spill.

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seeks briendehip with educated, cultured, and active older women (55-leh?). East (preferably) or West bildlends, Box No I;1645. ATTRACTIVE MALE, 25, into arts, sports & music, seeks attractive female, 20-30, for fun & relationship, London/Herts area. Photo please, Box No 1:1648. HAPPY, ATTRACTIVE, CLEVER F, 49, loves books, art, music, slience, seeks N/S M pai, soul-

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I was from outside Edinburgh, over for the weekend and to research my family tree. I was with a tall blonde friend. We talked, you asked if I knew any good places to go at night and if we would be going back to Madigans. Maxingans.

My friend and I then sat at the alcove by the door to base lunch. A you left with your friend, you said we might see you tonight. I said hopefully. I'm still hopeful. If you remember me please er Box No 1:1652

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The big picture

The Terroriser Sun 12.55am C4

Unless, of course, you want to sit through Jonathan Demme's terribly over-blown Silence of the Lambs, why not sample the quieter delights - and delights there are - of the resurgent Taiwanese cinema. Edward Yang is its chief auteur and this is his complex, multistranded tale, meshing together the stories of some very different people - a research scientist, a female novelist, a fugitive gang member – through the device of a woman making prank telephone calls.

Television preview

RECOMMENDED VIEWING THIS WEEKEND by Gerard Gilbert



Deadly Voyage Sat 9.30pm BBC2 Sex and Fame Sat 11.25pm C4 The Big Question Sun 9.30am BBC1 Equinox Sun 7pm C4 The South Bank Show Sun 10.45pm ITV

terpiece won the Golden Phallus Award at the International Wet Dream Festival in Frankfurt (every mantlepiece should have one). Its star was the young Mary Millington, subject of one of this weekend's entries in Channel Four's Fame Factor "zone", Sex

and Fame - the Mary Millington Story (Sat C4). Now, Millington was a woman so deeply embedded in the 1970s that she should have been born with a pair of furry dice (aptly enough, she chose to kill herself in 1979). She was also Britain's first porno star. a woman with an even filmsier grasp on reality than on her clothes. But in the words of her many admirers (there exists a Mary Millington fan club, by the way, staffed by alarmingly young members), she took "porn out of Soho and into Esher".

Sex and Fame is a fascinating trawl through Britain's burgeoning porn industry and its friendly reception in the suburbs. And if the similarities with Marilyn Mouroe are overstated, Millington certainly managed to notch up (albeit for money)

on probably never saw Miss Borloch – but some some bedtime companions nearly as illustrious as the French authorities, in whose country they had time in the early 1970s this now forgotten mass and morroe's. The Shah of Persia didn't like any kinky docked en route to New York. Joss Ackland plays the

stuff, you'll be relieved to learn. The Big Question (Sun BBC1) immediately manages to throw up three hostages to fortune for a programme going out at 9.30am. Why, asks presenter Mark Lawson, are we here? Is there anybody out there? And where will it all end? Where indeed. Sir Anthony Hopkins is first up - but for all the purported weightiness of the questions, they serve here only to produce a bog-standard showbiz interview. Warmed up by Lawson with questions about his alcoholism, Hopkins sighs that it's "a weil-worn, boring old subject" - as indeed any visit to a news-paper cuttings library will confirm. "Oh... the voice," he almost moans, when confronted with the story of how a "voice" saved him from the bottle,

Deadly Voyage (Sat BBC2) is a behind-the-headlines Screen Two drama recreating the voyage of those ill-fated Ghanaian stowaways you might have read about, butchered at sea by the Ukrainian crew touch choppy, but it's inspired me to put some of the who discovered them. One survived to shop them to truly entraordinary Jacques Brel on my shopping list.

drunken former Soviet Navy captain in charge.

Equinox: Killer Bees (Sun C4) is better value, looking at how the fierce African honey bee has colonised all of South America and parts of North America. A sting from one of these charmers is simply a marker for the rest of the swarm - and 600 people have been killed since they were introduced nearly 40 years ago to boost honey production.

The South Bank Show (Sun ITV) shows that although the French may never quite have got the hang of pop music, they are second to none when it comes to a good chanson. Chansons are the sort of earthy, morally complex ballads made famous by the likes of Edith Piaf, Charles Aznavour and Juliette Greco. As with any art form, there are differences and animosities. Greco tells how she disliked the woman-hating Piaf. Aznavour claims (but not dismisses) Greco as bourgeois. The film itself is a



The big match The Japanese Grand Prix Sun 4.45am BBC2

Can Damon do it? Just like 20 years ago, the world championship will be decided in Japan, but the parallels would seem to favour Jacques Villeneuve rather than Damon Hill (above). It was the outsider, James Hunt, who overhauled the leader, Niki Lauder, on that rainy day in 1976.



Saturday television and radio

BBC₁

7.00 Bay City (R) (8806367).

7.25 News, Weather (9531763).
7.30 Children's BBC: The Morph Files. 7.40 Robinson Sucroe. 8.05 The Real Adventures of Jonny Quest 8.30 The New Adventures of Superman (2044725). * 9.15 Live and Kicking. Boyzone and the Spice Girls perform in the studio, and astronomer Patrick

Moore is in the Hot Seat (S) (44937386). 12.12 Weather (7475034). 12.15 Grandstand. 12.20 Football Focus, 1.00 News. 1.05 Motor Racing: highlights of the qualifying session for the crucial final round of the Formula One World Championship from Suzuka. 1.35 Cycling: action from the World Road Championships in Lugano, Switzerland. 1.50 Racing from Ascot: the 2.00 Autumn Stakes. 2.10 Motocross: action from the Dunlop Masters at Farleigh Castle in Wiltshire. 2.25 Racing from Ascot: the 2.30 Willmott Dixon Comwallis Stak 2.40 Motocross. 2.55 Racing from Ascot: the 3.00 Princess Royal Stakes. 3.10 Motocross. 3.30 Racing from Ascot: the 3.35 Willmott Dixon Stakes. 3.45 Football Half-Times. 3.55 Boxing: last night's Commonwealth light-welterweig championship fight in London between title-holder Andy Holligan of Liverpool and Zambian challenger, Felix Bwalya. 4.40 Final Score (S) (95474893).

5.20 News, Weather (2505831). *

5.30 Regional News and Weather (745367).

5.55 Children in Need. Terry Wogan and Gaby Roslin launch this year's appeal (S) (748454). *
 6.05 Jim Davidson's Generation Game. Brian Conley

guest stars (S) (884819). *
7.05 Due South. Last in series (S) (760812). *
7.50 The National Lottery Live – the 100th Birthday.
The guest is violinist Vanessa Mae (S) (385589). 8.05 Casually. A chlorine spillage at a swimming pool busies the TV docs (S) (363744). *

8.55 News and Sport, Weather (Followed by National

Lotterly Update) (134102). *
9.15 Lust for Murder (Nathaniel Gutman 1993 US). Two couples go on holiday together. Wife nut or one starts an affair with husband number two, kills his wife and tries to blame the murder on her own husband. If you follow (4103560). * 10.40 Match of the Day. Manchester United v Liverpool at Old Trafford is the main event (S) (3686270). *

11.50 They Think It's All Over. Andy Gray and Jo Brand are 12.20 Top of the Pops (S) (7472868). * 12.55 April Fool's Day (Fred Watton 1986 US). An heiress invites old college friends to stay at her luxury island over the April Fool's weekend. Then,

as they say, the killings start (1809023). 2.20 Weather (8118665), To 2.25am. REGIONS. Scot: 5.35pm Auntie's TV Favourites. 9.15 Children in Need. 9.25 Film: Lust for Murder. 10.55 Sportscene - Match of the Day.

BBC2

6.05 Town Portraits. Bishop Auckland (R) (3835725).

6.15 Cold Yearning (R) (6482980).
7.05 Table Danny Boy (Oswald Mitchell 1941) A
Broadway star, Ann Todd, returns home to Britain
to help the War effort (8451676). 8.20 Open University: How We Study Children (9212812). 8.45 Four Towns and a Circus (8168928). 9.10 A Tale of Two Capitals – Paris

and Rome (7324386).

10.00 Chamakya (S) (1432164). 10.35 Network East (S) (9170367). 11.20 Bollywood or Bust! (S) (3138164). 11.50 East Madeleine (David Lean 1949 UK). Ann Todd again, in the second of two films she made with her then husband, David Lean. She plays a young woman who comes under suspicion when the Frenchman with whom she has been having a secret affair, is found poisoned (46205763).

1.40 Film 96 with Barry Norman (S) (14757541). *
2.10 THE San Francisco (W S Van Dyke II 1936 US).
Lavish MGM disaster movie, culminating in a magnificent recreation of the 1906 earthquake.
Singer Jeanette MacDonald, casino owner Clark Gable, and pugnacious priest Spencer Tracy learn how to pull together (793657).

4.00 The King and Four Queens (Raoul Walsh 1956 US). The second Clark Gable film of the afternoon finds him playing a cowboy on the run who plays on the emotions of four women, hoping to discover the whereabouts of \$100,000 from a stagecoach holdup (8136367).

5.20 TOTP 2 (S) (9275928). 6.05 Rhodes. 4/8 (S) (102454). *

7.00 News and Sport, Weather (670909). * 7.15 Assignment, Julian O'Halloran reports from Israel (782034). *

8.00 What the Papers Say (S) (978473). 8.10 The Untouchable. See Preview, above (S)

9.00 Have I Got News for You (\$) (7676).
9.30 Screen Two: Deadty Voyage See Preview, above (S) (45831). *

11.00 Satisf The Butcher's Wife (Terry Hughes 1991 US). Rather likeable low-key romantic comedy. Derrif Moore plays a clairvoyant from the sticks who marries a New York by ther and starts working her magic on his Greenwich Village entourage. With Jeff Daniels (S) (74.1831). *

12.40 Eliki Motorcycle Gang (Edward L Cahn 1957 US). Drive-in mayhem about a motorcycle gang 1.55 The Oklahoma Woman (Roger Corman 1956 US). B-movie western (4392232).

3.05 Kiss Tomorrow Goodbye (Gordon Douglas 1950 US). Cracking James Cagney vehicle finds him escaping from prison and marrying a beautiful socialite who knows nothing of his past (564110). 4.45 Japanese Grand Prix. Can Damon do it? Live coverage for the crucial final round of the Formula One World Championship (33936). To 7.00am.

ITV/London

6.00 GMTV: 6.00 News. 6.10 Mole in the Hole. 6.30 Professor Bubble. 6.50 Bug Alert! 7.10 Disney's Wake Up in the Wild Room. 8.20 Gargoyles. 8.50 Mighty Morphin Power Rangers (7512589). 9.25 Wow. MN8 play their new single (S) (24398855). 11.00 The Noise MN8 again – joined by East 17 and Cilla

Black (S) (1638). 11.30 The Chart Show (S) (81980). 12.30 Love Bites. Series looking at romance, relationships and love. This week, why do boys

always brag about their conquests? And can you be too fat or spotty to get a griffriend? (75299).

1.00 News and Weather (48036893). *

1.05 Local News, Weather (48035164). *

1.10 Champions League Special J(38385265).

1.40 Movies, Games and Videos (6229831). 2.15 The Big Money (John Paddy Carstairs 1962 UK). Incompetent thief steals a suitcase full of counterfeit money. Comedy starring lan Carmichael and Kathleen Harrison (506218).

3.50 seaQuest 2032 (S) (8069831). 1 4.45 News, Sports Results, Weather (7789657). * 5.05 London Tonight, Sports Results (Followed by LWT Weather) (5790657). * 5.20 New Baywatch. CJ befriends a homeless eccentric

5.15 Gladiators (S) (976763). * 7.15 Blind Date (S) (972947). * 8.15 Family Fortunes (S) (269725). *
8.45 ITN News, Weather, Lottery Result (Followed by LWT Weather) (149034). *

(S) (4192947). *

9.00 Airight on the Night's Cock-Up Trip. Avuncular Denis Norden presents 101 brand new TV out-takes (S) (2473). *

10.00 The Silence of the Lambs (Jonathan Demme 1991 US). Anthony Hopkins smacked his lips into superstardom as Hannibal Lecter in Demme's highly popular - but, for my money, disappointing adaptation of Thomas Hams's scary bestseller (director Michael Mann came closer to the dark* heart of Harris's book in his excellent Manhunter). Jodie Foster is the FBI agent sent to debrief Lecter for clues about a serial killer. But can she escape with her soul? (85340744). *

12.15 Funny Business. Focusing on Harry Hill and the wonderful John Shuttleworth (S) (54961). 12.45 The Great American Sex Scandal (Michael Schultz 1989 US). The lives of 12 average Americans are turned upside down when they are

selected to serve as jurors on an embezzlement scandal of the decade. Starring Lynn Redgrave, Heather Locklear and Madchen Amick (415955). 2.25 The Chart Show (R) (S) (7708787).

3.15 El News Review (3720139). 4.05 Night Shift (44120771). 4.10 God's Gift (R) (4573665). 5.05 Coach. One of Haydn's former players develops cancer from steroid abuse (R) (S) (8663416).5.30 News (17077). To 6.00am. Channel 4

6.50 The Magic School Bus (R) (S) (9095164). 7.20 Really Wild Animals (8802541). 7.45 First Edition (8698034).

8.00 Transworld Sport (78657). 9.00 The Morning Line. Racing tips (S) (70928). 10.00 Gazzetia Football Italia (S) (37980).

11.00 Blitz! (57744). 12.00 Rawhide (5334560). 12.55 EMB Edge of Darkness (Lewis Milestone 1943 US). Very dark for a wartime morale-raiser,

Milestone's movie casts Errol Flynn and Ann Sheridan as resistance leaders in a small Norwegian fishing town. The occupying Nazis are depicted as unremittingly savage by scriptwriter Robert "The Hustler" Rossen (88555706). *

3.10 Channel 4 Racing from York. Derek Thompson introduces the 3.15 Coldstream Guards Rockingham Stakes; the 3.45 Crowther Homes H'cap Stakes; the 4.15 Coral Sprint Trophy, and the 4.45 Royal British Legion Insurance Services States (1) 1550011541 Stakes (S) (55921164).

5.05 Brookside Omnibus (R) (S) (3396909). * 6.30 Right to Reply (S) (589). *
7.00 News Summary and Weather (567265).
7.05 The Great, the Good and the Dispossesse

Special programme, coinciding with the UN Day for the Eradication of Poverty (who says they don't have lofty aims), looks at the nature of poverty in Britain today, what causes it, and suggests policies to tackle the problem (S) (5632725). *

8.30 Birds of the Burning Soda. Africa's Great Rift Valley has lakes that are now bitter alkaline. But

one creature, the lesser flamingo, thrives on these soda lakes and millions congregate to form a great wildlife spectacle. Here it is (R) (1034). *

9.00 ER. A terminally ill patient begs Greene to help her die (R) (S) (463299). *
9.55 Father Ted. A militant feminist singer arrives on the

tiny island, just as Ted is preparing to judge the annual Lovely Girls competition (R) (S) (289812). 10,25 NYPD Blue. Sipowicz secretly relocates the corpse of a fellow detective who died on the job with a prostitute in a seedy motel (R) (S) (136454). *
11.25 Sex and Fame – the Mary Millington Story. See Preview, above (S) (351299).
12.30 Starstruck. As the demand for celebrity lookalikes

booms, a look at four people who make a living out of looking like someone famous, including a young Cliff Richard, a Marilyn Monroe lookalike and an Elton John clone (6580077).

Midler has rarely been better than in her first headlining movie - playing the young singer burning herself out in the classic rock music mode. Alan Bates is unconvincing as her manager, but there's solid support from Harry Dean Stanton and Frederic Forrest (S) (44495690). *

3.25 Tales from a Hard City. Repeat True Stories film, and a winner of a Prix Italia, looks at showbiz wannabes from Sheffield (7077787). To 4.55am.

ITV/Regions

ANGUN
As London except: 12.30pm Champions of the Funce
(75299), 2.10 Suntmasters (7495522): 2.55 Annotic
(8173164): 12.15mm Pilon: The Chase (453955).
1.55am Camal Knowledge (3830565): 2.55am Pilon:
Night: Caller (8229416): 4.10am Heiter Sietler
(9317042): 5.00-5.30am World of Sailing (32232).

CHANNEL 3 NORTH EAST/YORKSHIRE

As London except: 12,30pm West: Cu Getters (3182980), Wales: Caldonia Off Beat (9, 3976. 5) 12.45 Wales: Rugby 2000 (7/751180) 12.55 West: Cartoon Time (93772928) 2.10 Film: The

National As London except: 12.30pm Movies, Games and Videos (75299). 1.40 A406 (14751367). 2.10 World of Salling (2054660). 2.40 Warner Cartoon (1585034). 2.50 Annot (1570034). 12.15 am Film: The Chase (453955). 1.55 am Camar Knowledge

Ms London except: 12.30pm Moves, Games and Vidros (75299): 1,40 Wash of Wonder (14751367). 2,10 Film: The Boys in 1884 (5/79855). 12,15am Film: The Chase (453955): 1,55 Camal Knowledge (3830665)

son Lawer (5527522). 8.20 Hal Straech (164183) 8.50 Glas Y Dorlan (680183), 9.25 Guardians (466386) 10.25 Fame Factor Introduction (330788). 10.26 I'm Your Number One Fan (136454). 11.25-12.30am The Mary Millington Story (251299).

to To

Radio

Radio 1

(97.6-99.8MHz FM) 7.00am Kevin Greening 10.00 Dave Pearce 1.00 Jo Whiley 4.00 John Peel 7.00 Lovegroovs Dance Party with Danny Ram-pling 9.00 Radio 1 Rap Show 12.00 The Radio I Reggae Dancehall Nite 2.00 Essential Mix. Paul Oakenfold 4.00-6.00am Charlie Jordan

Radio 2 (88-90.2MRz AM)

6.00am Mo Dutta 8.05 Brian Matthew 10.00 Steve Wright's Saturday Show 1.00 Carrott's Comedy 1.30 News Huddlines 2.00 Judi Spiers 4.00 Nick Barr-actough 5.00 Reading Music 6.00 Joan Baez in Concert 7.00 Red-Hot and Blue 7.30 Yehudi Menuhin's 80th Birthday Concert 9.30 David Jacobs 10.00 Made In Wales 12.05 Charles Nove 4.00-6.00am Mo Dutta

Radio 3 7.00am Record Review. 9.00 Building a Library. David

10.15 Record Release. 11.15 Reissues. David Fanging samples the Carl Nielsen Col-lection from Danacord, which from the Denmark Radio 12.00 Private Passions. Michael

Berkeley talks to the multi-talented George Melly. 1.00 News: Simon Rattle -Home and Away. (4/8). 3.00 The Department Score. 3.30 Young Artists' Forum. Presented by Sandy Burnett. With Geoffrey Smith.

examines how the relationship between music and machines has changed over the ages, 6.30 Serse. Hander's opera of sibling rivalry.

9.45 Building for the Arts. How Does It Sound? (2/6).

of St Luke's in a performance of his own place, Fearful Sym-10.45 Impressions. Brian Morton introduces a specially recorded session by the highly regarded sexophonist and clarinettist Tony Coe. 12.30 Misterioso. Profile of the

10.15 Fearful Symmetries, John

Adams conducts the Orchestra

Choice

Complete the following sentence: She was only a vicar's daughter, but... Robert Robinson probes for possible solutions in Ad Lib (6.50pm R4), talking to daughters of the clergy. Try also the highly mordant poetry of Peter Reading (left) in Stanza on Stage (11.30pm R4).

1.00 Through the Night. With Donald Macleod. 5.00-6.00am Sequence.

Radio 4 G2494.06k FIL 1984k UV) 6.00am News Briefing. 6.10 Farming Today. 6.50 Prayer for the Day. 6.55 Weather. 7.00 Today. 8.58 Weather. 9.00 News. 9.05 Sport on 4. 9.30 Breaksway

11.00 News: Agenda. Stakes in Shifting Sands, John Lloyd searches for the substance behind one of the key Blair slo-11.30 From Our Own Correspon-

12.00 Money Box. 12.25 News Quiz. 12.55 Weather. 1.00 News. 1.10 Any Questions? 1.55 Shipping Forecast. 2.00 News; Any Answers? 2.30 Saturday Playhouse: The Compromise. In Istvan Eorsi's dramatic dilemma. Zoltan discovers that his magnum opus Revolution and Counter-Revolu tion in Hungary can be pub-

lished - but only If he agrees to make certain changes. With Juliet Stevenson and John Hurt. 4.00 News; That's History. 4.30 Science Now, Weather permitting, a partial eclipse of the sun will be visible today from Britain, Peter Evans considers what effect it might have on

people and animals. 5.00 file on 4. 5.40 The Wardrobe, A sideways look at the contents of an average wardrobe, presented through anecdote, archive and music. (2/6).

5.50 Shipping Forecast. 5.55 Weather. 6.00 Six O'Clock News. 6.25 Week Ending, Topical com-edy sketch show, with Sally Grace, Jon Glover, Julie Gibbs and John Dutthe. 6.50 Ad Lib. Robert Robinson

meets a group of daughters of the clergy. See Choice, 7.20 Kaleidoscope Feature. As the director of the Royal Ballet Company begins his 10th an-niversary season at the helm, Debra Craine looks back at some of the company's achievements and finds out what faces the dancers as the

Royal Opera House prepares for closure. 7.50 On These Days. A look back at some of the events that took place 50 years ago this week. The inhabitants of Stevenage are horrified to discover that their village is to become the site of the first New Town in Britain.

50 Saturday Night Theatre: Victoria Station. By Steve Chembers. First-Class Distinction. Set in Victoria Station. Bridgford, 100 years ago. Wednesday, 18 January 1895 is a day notable for both alarms and excursions. With Philip Jackson, Sean Baker and Julia Ford. (3/5).

9.35 Classics with Kay. With Brian Kay. 9.50 Ten to Ten. With the Ray Stephen Oliver. 9.59 Weather.

10.10 News.

10.15 Making Up. Set against the background of the Old Queen gay club in Bristol, David Goodland's play centres on Darcy White, a drag queen whose act is in need of a little spark. When his ex-partner Dennis turns up after 20 years, however, it's not just the act that gets pulled apart. With Ronald Pickup.

11.15 Auntie's Secret Box. The radio archives explored by Dan Strauss, Suzy Blake, Mike Hayley and Alan Francis. 11.30 Stanza on Stage. Simon Armitage Introduces poet Peter Reading in a showcase of his extraordinary work, recorded at the 1996 Birm-

Ingham Readers and Writers Festival. See Choice, left. 12.00 News. Incl 12.20 approx weather. 12.30 Late Story: My Father. By Damon Runyon. 12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00-6.00am As World Service.

Radio 5

(E3) 999/fz (E7) 6.05am Dirty Tackle 6.30 Brian Hayes at Breakfast 9.05 Weekend with Kershaw and Whittaker 11.05 Sport on Five 6.06 Six-0-Six 8.05 The Treatment 9.05 SR 8.03 Into treatment 9.05 Dallyn UK 10.05 Brief Lives 10.35 Word Up! 11.00 Night Extra 12.05 Night Talk with Pat-tle Coldwell 2.05 Up Ali Night 4.55-6.00am Japanese Grand

Classic FM (100 0-101 940 円的

6.00am Sarah Lucas, 9.00 Clas sic Countdown, 12.00 Classic Gardening Forum. 1.00 Alan Mann. 4.00 Nick Balley. 7.00 Russian Revelation. 8.00 Saturday Evening Concert. Chabrier: Espana, Turina: Danza Fantasti cas. Rodrigo: Concierto Madrigal Albeniz: Iberla Suite. Granado Three Spanish Dances, 10.00 The Classic Quiz. 12.00 Andre Leon. 4.00 Classic Travel Guide. 5.00-6.00am Michael Fanstone.

Yîrgin Radio (1215, 1197-1260AHz MAY 105.6MFz FM) 6.00am John Hipper 8.00 Russ & Jono's Greatest Hits 10.00 Richard Skinner 2.00 Robin Banks (including Album Chart) 6.00 Lynn Parsons 10.00 Jeremy Clark 2.00-6.00am

World Service [1998]] (1992] 1.00am Newsdesk 1.30 Letter 1.00am Newsdesk 1.30 Letter from America 1.45 Britain Today 2.00 Newsdesk 2.30 People and Politics 3.00 Newsday 3.30 Mu-sic Review 4.00 World News

Fourth Estate 4.45 Write On 4.55 Pop Short 5.00 Newsdesk 5.30-6.00am Short Story

7.00am Undun (5942367), 12.00 WWF (24134). 1.00 Hit Mix (14102). 2.00 Hercules (75676). 3.00 Hawkeys (11541), 4,00 WWF (30676), 5,00 Pacific Blue (5638), 5,00 America's Dumbest Criminals (5589), 6,30 Just Kidding (9541), 7,00 Hercules (42909), 8,00 Unsolved Mysteries (51657). 9.00 Cops (29560). 9.30 Coo Files (74693), 10.00 Quantum Leap (34980). 11.00 Quantum Leap (90473). 12.00 Movie Show (45874). 12.30 Dream On (33597). 1.00 Come-ty Rules (53394). 1.30 Edge (93400). 2.00-7.00am Hit Mix (38503).

7.00am Earth 2 (4285947). 8.00 Jag (4261367), 9.00 Kindred: The Embraced (4274831), 10.00 Tales from the Crypt (5269102), 10.30 Tales from the Crypt (5245522). 11.00 The Hit Mix (1394096). 12.00 Film: Helis of Anger (1970) (2931110). 2.00-7.00am Hit Mix (3255226).

Strington No Nules (1980) (72560).
8.00 Taxing Liberty (1994) (65928).
10.00 Pumping Iron II: The Women (1985) (20763). 12.00 Between Love and Honour (1994) (49251). 2.00 Mystery Mension (1983) (58560). 4.00 Fise Wifly (1993) (3270). 6.00 Comins, Control (1994) (4926). Contras (1994) (45096), 8.000 Roboccop 3 (1993) (40541), 10.00 Darkman II-The Ratum of Durant (1994) (484909), 11.35 Sexual Outlants (1995). (233522), 1.15 Sparser: Carem (1993) (275145). 245 See Jane Run (1994) (192868). 4.15-6.00am Pump

ing Iron II: The Women (1985) (63145).

WATCOMET 6.00am Along Carne Jones (1945) (70102), 8.00 The Counterleit Contessa (1994) (57270). 10.00 Sister Act II: Back in the Habit (1993) (28305). Death in the Halle (1995) (285/5).

12.00 Shepherd on the Rock (1994) (47893). 2.00 Televier: Televids (1994) (56102). 4.00 The Death's Bed (1994) (7812). 6.00 Lightning Jack (1994) (43638). 8.00 Sister Act II: Back in the Habit (1993) (48183). 10.00 The Additional Control of the Rock (1993) (48183). 10.00 The Additional Control of the Rock (1993) (48183). ventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desart (1994) (692831), 11.45 APEX (1994) (988560), 1.30 A Bronx Tate (1993)

(72529313), 3.35-5.00am Dragonard (1988) (30752139). 2KL MOMEZ GOTD 4.00pm Cara's Heart (1988) (7783821), 6.00 The Makese Falcon (1941) (1760367), 8.00 The Return of Mickey Spillare's Mile Hamater (1986) (1765812), 10.00 The Long Well, Hama (1980) (2678589), 11,40 Our Home (1989) (2678589). 11.40 Our Mari Flint (1966) (3373454). 1.30 Fol-low the Fleet (1936) (9854706), 3.20-5.35em Mutiny on the Bounty (1935) (34136226).

7.00am Give Lis A Clue (7092522). 7.30 Going for Gold (9603034), 7.55 The Sullivens (18288676), 10.00 Neighbours (4705639). 12.00 East-Enders (95318305). 2.55 Minder (69664183), 4,00 Robin's Nest (5724251), 4,30 Sorry (4667763), 5,05 Cartoon Time (41962454), 5,15 The A Team (2423299). 6.15 Bullseye (6402683). 6.45 Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em (5500299), 7.25 Whatever Happened to the Likely Lads? (5406909) 8 05 Shoestring (1144676), 9.05 Taggart (10045270), 10.10 Kojak (1696947), 11.10 Miami Vice (5387314), 12.10 Callan (5855329), 1.10 The Album Show (8625225), 2.10-7.00am Shopping at

7.00am World Sports (36259), 7.30 toe Hockey (19385), 8.30 Horse Racing (56589), 9.00 Seiling (30541), 9.30 Hold the Back Page (90693), 10.30 Sooce (512367), 1.30 Sports Saturday

7.00am Soccer (7325251), 10.00 Golf

12.00moon Rugby Union (69318812). 5.00 Rebel Sports (92157522). 5.30 Surfing (97771638). 6.30 Golf (59276522). 7.30 Live Golf (60594251), 10.00-12.00midnight Golf: Durihill Cup (27119299).

Box 9.00 Pate and Fortune 9.30 The Fashion Show 10.00 Revelations 10.30 Looking for Love 11.00 Mind and Body 11.30 Spanish Archer 12.00 Gall's Ca-pers 12.30 Why Files 1.00 Looking for Love 1.30 Fate and Fortune 2.00 Fash-ion 2.30 Mind and Body 3.00 Che cuared Plag 3.30 Pln Money 4.00 Erics Monets Sport Show 5.30 Looking for Love 6.00 Feshion 6.30 Erics Sport 7.00 Spanish Archer 7.30 Revelations 8.00 Fate and Fortune 8.30 Missing Per-sons 9.03 The Why Files 9.30 Looking for Love 10.03 Eric's Sport 10.30 Stand -Up 11.03 Fate and Fortune 11.30 The Sex Show 12.00-6.00am Night-Time

CHANNEL 3 HORTH EASY/HORISHINE
As London except: 12.30pm Movies, Garnes and Videos (75299). 1.40 Film: The Handenburg (52397305). 3.50 A guolf (8069831). 5.10 Channel 3 North East, Full Time (2399015). toxis: Scorefile (2399015). 12.15am RoboCoo (1965961). 1.05am Funny Business (6618394). 1.30am Coach (9298348). 1.55am War and Remembrance (227416). 3.50am Late & Loud (5554771). 4.45-5.30am Murder, She Wrote (1809526).

CERTIFIL
As London except: 12.30pm Premiere (75299); 1.10
TIV Sport Classics (76721657); 1.25 Champtens;
League Special (32985229); 1.55 Eastern Mix (14740251); 2.25 Movies, Garnes and Videos (27701744); 2.55 Airwolf (8173164); 3.50 Rubo-Cop (8069831); 5.10 Central Match – Coats Eutra (2399015); 4.05am Jobinder (8271684); 5.20-5.30am Asian Eye (5354226).

West: Carbon Time (937/2928). 2.10 Figure 119 Boys in Blue (579855). 3.50 RoboCop (8559893). 4.40 West: ITV Sport Mim Classus (8/96909). Wates: Let's Go (8296909). 12.15am Film: The Chase (453955). 1.55am Carnal Knowledge (3830665). 2.55am Film: Night Caller (82:794/6). 4.10am Helter Skelter (9317042). 5.00-5.30am World of Sailing (32232).

(3830665), 2.55am Film: Night Coller (8223416), 4.10am Helter Skelter (9317042), 5.00-5.30am

2.55am Film: Night Caller (8/29416) 4.10am Hel-ter Stetter (9317042), 5.00-5.30am Salling (32232).

As C4 except 7.20am Really Wild Show (8502541). 10.00 Rawfide (37980) 12.00 The Average's (5334560), 3.10 Racing (55921164), 6.30 Hav-elog Treks (589), 7.00 News (698305), 7.15 No-

Satellite

50028 (312307), LSO sylvis Sainos, (6945589), 5.30 foe Hodey (93164), 6.30 Live foe Hodey (759541), 9.00 Boxing (217980), 11.30 Kick Boxing (57299), 12.30 foe Hodey (4)19655), 3.00-5.00am Boxing (94313),

(7692589), 4.30 Sailing (4259928), 5.00 Finish Line (2906183), 5.30 Futbol Mundial (4233980), 6.00 Soccer (9343744), 7.30 Soccer (9934831). 9.30 Soccer (4614305). 11,00 Memories (9659096). 12.00-1.00am Soccer: FA Cup Finals of the '80s (3281787). 27 PORTS 1

6.00am Revelations 6.30 Looking for Love 7.00 Spanish Archer 7.30 Mind and Body 8.00 Why Files 8.30 Video

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